

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND



Department of Corrections
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April 4, 2022

Re: REVISIONS TO IN-PERSON VISITATION

Since March 2020 the Rhode Island Department of Corrections (RIDOC) has been engaged in proactive response planning for the COVID-19 pandemic. Since we are a congregate setting, RIDOC's approach to in-person visits has always been careful and thoughtful, keeping the health and safety of staff, inmates and visitors at the forefront of every decision. As a result of these efforts, positive cases among RIDOC staff and inmates are extremely low.

Based on new guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and in consultation with the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH), RIDOC has updated its in-person visitation protocols. These updated protocols are in addition to the Department's current Visits Policy, which is still in effect, as well as the continued option of video visitation. These updates will take effect *at all RIDOC facilities beginning Monday, April 4, 2022.*

For in-person visits to continue to succeed, it is crucial that visitors strictly adhere to these guidelines while visiting loved ones at the Adult Correctional Institutions (ACI). If there is a spike in COVID-19 cases, or the safety of staff or inmates is jeopardized in any way, RIDOC will be forced to re-evaluate or, if necessary, discontinue in-person visits until we can safely resume them again.

By and large, both staff and the inmate population have been cooperative and understanding; acknowledging that the decisions made by RIDOC were done so to maintain everyone's health and safety, which has made in-person visits successful thus far. It is our hope that such cooperation and understanding will continue among staff, inmates and the public.

The Revised COVID-19 In-Person Visitation Guidelines are outlined below.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patricia A. Coyne-Fague".

Patricia A. Coyne-Fague, Esq.
Director

RIDOC REVISED COVID-19 IN-PERSON VISITATION GUIDELINES

All facilities will follow these guidelines but may tailor specifications to their respective facility layout and limitations, as necessary. All visitors must follow the temporary rules outlined below in addition to the most recent version of RIDOC Policy 24.03 DOC, [Visits](#). Refusal to comply will result in the denial of entry into the facility. **RIDOC will continue to evaluate these protocols on a weekly basis to determine if adjustments need to be made. Before visiting, please review RIDOC's Facebook page for updates in visitation requirements** (<https://www.facebook.com/RhodeIslandDOC>).

- Any visitor who is feeling ill or who has been diagnosed as COVID-19 **POSITIVE** in the last ten (10) days or are awaiting test results will not be permitted to enter.
 - All visitors **will** be visually observed for symptoms. The facility has the right to refuse entrance if it is determined that a visitor is showing signs of having COVID symptoms.
- **Vaccinated Visitors:** Must provide valid proof of vaccination to the facility (for visitation purposes vaccinated means having received at least 2 doses of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine, or one dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine).
- **Unvaccinated Visitors (aged 5 or older):** Must provide the facility with a valid negative COVID-19 test result.
 - Rapid tests must be taken **within 72 hours** (3 days) or PCR tests taken within **120 hours** (5 days) of the visit.
 - Tests at state-run sites may be scheduled at: <https://portal.ri.gov/s/>.
 - Tests taken at CVS, Walgreens or at your primary care doctor are accepted; however, results must be printed or shown on your cell phone from <https://portal.ri.gov/covidtestresults/s/>.
 - Emailed results will not be accepted as proof.
 - At-home COVID test results will not be accepted.
 - RIDOC is also providing an onsite **rapid** testing option (Monday through Friday only) for visitors unable to schedule a test in the community. To schedule a rapid test at RIDOC, please register here: [RIDOC Visitor COVID Testing Registration](#). Instructions for testing at RIDOC may be found below.
- Out-of-state visitors are permitted with a **valid negative** COVID-19 test result from their respective state. All other RI rules apply (see testing requirements outlined above).
 - Out-of-state visitors must be on the inmate's visiting list.
 - Visits will be conducted with the inmate's regular visitation group.
 - No specialty visit times will be permitted.

Please note that testing requirements may change based on the number of positive cases in the community

- All visitors 5 years and older, regardless of vaccination status, **must** wear one (1) surgical-type or K/N95 mask.
 - All masks must be plain (i.e., no prints/patterns, no words/phrases, etc. on them).
 - Cloth masks, gaiter-style and masks with vents or valves are **not permitted**.
 - Masks must be [worn appropriately](#) – **covering both the nose and mouth**.
 - All masks will be searched prior to entry.
- Visitation durations are at the discretion of facility administration.
- The number of visitors allowed per inmate is based on each facility's visiting room capacity.
- A brief embrace at the beginning and end of the visit is permitted.
- No food or beverages are permitted.
- If for any reason a visitor needs to leave the visitation area, **re-entry is not permitted**.
- Visitors must sanitize their hands, utilizing hand sanitizer provided by RIDOC, upon entering and exiting the facility, and visitors who utilize lockers must disinfect the front of the locker and the key before and after each use (RIDOC will provide visitors with appropriate disinfectant).
- In-person visitation will not take place for inmates on quarantine or medical isolation status.
- A visit may be terminated at any time by facility administration or their designee.
- Facility visitation may be cancelled at any time by the RIDOC Director or her designee.

RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

VISITOR COVID TESTING INFORMATION

This testing option is being provided only for those individuals visiting someone at the Adult Correctional Institutions (ACI). While we encourage people to test in their community or at their primary care provider's (PCP) office we recognize that community testing is becoming more difficult to get; therefore, we have created two (2) 4-hour blocks, Monday through Friday, for visitors to take a rapid test. See below for RIDOC testing times, directions and instructions.

For more information on visitor guidelines, please see RIDOC's REVISED COVID-19 In-Person Guidelines.

Test Registration Link: [RIDOC Visitor COVID Testing Registration](#)

Testing Days: Monday – Friday

Testing Times: 10am-12pm
2pm-4pm

Location: Dorothea Dix Building
18 Wilma Schesler Lane
Cranston, RI 02920

Instructions:

- This is a **drive-up** testing site.
- Upon arrival turn right at the parking lot entrance and pull around into the cul-de-sac in the front of the building (pull all the way around the circle to the testing booth so that the testing booth is on the same side as your passenger window). If on foot, we will assist you at the booth.
- Please remain in your vehicle.
- Please have your **photo ID ready**.
- Testing takes about 15 minutes, and **you must wait for your results**.
- Once your results are processed, **all individuals** testing negative **will be given proof of test** to bring to the facility at the time of the visit.
- If you **test positive**, staff will **call** you with your results (the number provided on the survey will be your contact number for positive test results).