



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

March 29, 2020

NOTICE

Rhode Island “Stay Home” Order

To curtail the spread of COVID-19, Rhode Island Governor Gina Raimondo has issued a temporary, statewide stay-home order, requiring the closure of all nonessential businesses and operations to curtail and mandates that residents of the state stay at home. The order is in effect until April 13, 2020. It also bans gatherings of more than five people, mandates that people entering Rhode Island from other states for a nonwork-related purpose self-quarantine for two weeks and shuts all nonessential businesses. The order is available at <http://www.governor.ri.gov/documents/orders/Executive-Order-20-14.pdf>.

How does this impact foreign missions and their members?

Foreign missions may continue to perform essential government operations in the state of Rhode Island. However, all foreign missions are expected to adopt strategies aimed at mitigating the spread of COVID-19, such as maximizing opportunities for their members to work from home (“telework”), applying social distancing of at least six feet, and avoiding local travel unless required for purposes of protecting health, safety, and protection of property.

When not performing those functions, foreign mission personnel and their dependents are expected to fully comply with the requirements of the Governor’s order, as well as any other applicable orders issued by local or municipal authorities.

The Department appreciates your patience and understanding as local authorities begin to implement these new restrictions.

Questions or Issues

Inquiries concerning the impacts of COVID-19 and the associated responsive effort on the operation of foreign missions in the United States should be transmitted by electronic mail to OFM-EmergencyMgt@state.gov.

Resources

- COVID-19 in Rhode Island: <https://health.ri.gov/covid/>
- CDC's Coronavirus Website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>
- CDC's Interim Guidance for Business and Employers: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html>
- Compilation of circular diplomatic notes and notices released by OFM concerning COVID-19: <https://www.state.gov/circular-notes-and-notices-covid-19/>
- Follow OFM on social media: Facebook.com@ofmdc and Twitter @OFM_Ambassador