OHIC NEWS

The Rhode Island Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner

Guide to COVID-19 Testing & Vaccines

Rhode Islanders have several no-cost options for getting tested, and for scheduling a COVID-19 vaccination, even if you do not have insurance

• Who Can Receive the COVID-19 Vaccine in Rhode Island?

COVID-19 vaccinations have begun to be administered to eligible Rhode Islanders. The state is distributing the vaccines as safely, quickly, and equitably as possible. Since the initial supply of the vaccine is limited, Rhode Island is using an age-based approach and ensuring the most vulnerable populations receive the vaccine first. All Rhode Islanders 65 and older are now eligible to schedule a vaccination. Health care workers, first responders, and other select groups are also eligible. Click here to see approximately when your age group will be eligible to schedule a COVID-19 vaccine.

To see how to get vaccinated, go to covid.ri.gov/vaccination

• Is There a Waitlist for Rhode Islanders Not Yet Eligible?

Yes! Rhode Islanders who are not yet eligible for vaccinations can add their contact information to a Vaccine Information Notification List to get updates as eligibility opens to new groups. To enroll in this list, go to portal.ri.gov.

• How Do I Schedule a COVID-19 Vaccination?

If you are eligible to be vaccinated, there are three different options: State-run vaccination centers, designated local pharmacies, and other local and regional vaccination sites, like clinics run by cities and towns, some hospitals, and community health centers. To register for an appointment, go to vaccinateRI.org, or call the automated line: 844-930-1779.

• Do I Need to Pay for the COVID-19 Vaccine?

There is no cost or co-pay for the COVID-19 vaccine. Insurance companies may be charged, but you will not be. Those without health insurance will also receive the COVID-19 vaccine at no cost.

• Where Can I Find Updates on Rhode Island's Vaccination Progress?

The Rhode Island Department of Health publishes COVID-19 vaccine updates on their website every Friday. On their website you can find COVID-19 vaccine provider advisories, and provider briefings. Click here to view these updates.

Please note: To get vaccinated in Rhode Island, you must live in Rhode Island, work in Rhode Island, or go to school in Rhode Island.

For the Latest Updates on COVID-19 Testing and Vaccines, Visit the Rhode Island Department of Health Website

COVID-19 Vaccine FAQs
covid.ri.gov/vaccination/covid-19-vaccine-faqs

Latest COVID-19 Updates
https://covid.ri.gov/

COVID-19 Testing FAQs
https://health.ri.gov/publications/frequentlyaskedquestions/RI-COVID-19-Testing.pdf

- ## How Do I Sign Up for a COVID-19 Test?
  <u>There are several ways to get a COVID-19 test</u>:

  ✓ Any Rhode Islander can schedule a no-cost COVID-19 test at one of the state COVID-19 test sites. Go to portal.ri.gov to sign up. To view a list of all of the state COVID-19 test sites, click here.

  ✓ Call your primary care provider or child's pediatrician. Ask if they do point-of-care testing or if they can schedule a test for you.

  ✓ Make an appointment at a respiratory clinic.

- ## Do I Need to Pay for a COVID-19 Test?
  All Rhode Islanders, with or without insurance, can schedule a no-cost COVID-19 test at a state COVID-19 testing site. The State of Rhode Island will cover the cost of COVID-19 testing for anyone without insurance who schedules on portal.ri.gov. There may be costs associated with testing at other testing sites that are not operated by the state.

- ## How Do I Get My Test Results?
  You can access your results at portal.ri.gov/results within two to four days after your test. Rapid test results are usually posted to this portal in the same day. To access this portal, you must enter your personal information and the date you were tested. The Rhode Island Department of Health has created a step-by-step guide on how to use the result portal, click here to view.

Health Insurance Advisory Council Seeking to Expand Membership

In an effort to more accurately represent all communities in Rhode Island, the Health Insurance Advisory Council (HIAC) is seeking to expand its membership. The council, which exists to obtain information and present concerns to the Health Insurance Commissioner, is meant to be comprised equally of members who represent small business, health care, and consumer advocacy. Each month, members of HIAC meet to review policy proposals, consumer and provider concerns, and various health care programs. HIAC plays a constructive and critical role in the work and priority setting of the Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner (OHIC), bringing forth the consumer, business community, and health care provider voices.

Our goal is to further diversify our council by adding new voices from Rhode Islanders across the state. If you are interested in joining, or you know someone who you think would make a great addition to our council, please send their contact information to OHIC.HealthInsInq@ohic.ri.gov.

Do Your Part to Help Stop the Spread of COVID-19 in Rhode Island

To lower your risk of contracting COVID-19 and help slow the spread in our state, make sure to continue to follow these health guidelines, even if you have been vaccinated:

- Continue to wear your mask and watch your distance around anyone you don't live with
- Thoroughly wash your hands
- Continue to practice social distancing
- Stay home if you have any symptoms

Do You Have Questions or Concerns About Your Health Insurance?

OHIC and our community partner Rhode Island Parent Information Network (RIPIN) are here to answer all of your questions and address your concerns. Any Rhode Islander with any type of health insurance can call RIPIN to speak with trained professionals who can help them navigate the health insurance process and get what they need from their coverage.

- **OHIC Administrative Office: 401-462-6428**
- **RIPIN Call Center: 1-855-747-3224**