



Reopening RI: Phase 3 Extended Until August 28

Governor Raimondo has made the decision to keep Rhode Island in Phase 3 for another month with one change – **the social gathering is now lowered to 15.**

The Department of Health has found a clear trend: **large social gatherings continue to be a problem.** They have traced many COVID-19 cases back to certain, large social events. This has caused the rate of spread to increase, which isn't good for Rhode Island. Based on this increase, the Governor said it's clear we're not ready to move forward into another phase, but we don't need to move back a phase either. She is extending Phase 3 for another 30 days – through August 28 – with this one change to limit the size of social gatherings. This is important for a few reasons.

- First, we know that social gatherings above 15 people have been the source of many of the new positive cases.
- Second, we know from our contact tracers that people who attended gatherings above this size had difficulty recalling the names of people they were with, and many were not keeping contact tracing journals.
- And third, our top priority is getting, and keeping, all Rhode Islanders healthy!



DD Community Forum

The next DDD Community Forum will be held virtually on **Monday, August 17th from 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.**

- Meet Kevin Savage, the Acting DDD Director
- DDD will provide updates on the impact of COVID-19 on services and plans to resume services
- We welcome your questions and comments!

Questions and ideas for topics you'd like to see addressed can be sent in advance to BHDDH.AskDD@bhddh.ri.gov

Click this link to register:

<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07eh7pwk0t1f1232ba&oseq=&c=&ch=>

Save the Date
August 17
4:00 PM - 5:30 PM
DD Community Forum
Via Zoom or by Phone

Silver Linings

We thank Steven Karnes for sharing his poem with us!

Seekonk Speedway With No Fans

I can't go to the track
To see my favorite driver race
Hopefully soon it will happen
The people are slackin
I hope to go back with my friends
So I can sit with them in the stands
Nascar has fans
This I can't stand
I hope it will get better
With fans back in the stands

- *Steven Karnes*



Dad gives a beautiful explanation of why it's ok that his son mows the lawn 'wrong'

Excerpted from <https://www.upworthy.com/dad-lesson-honor-in-the-opportunity> by Tim Mercer

"Think about the honor of the opportunity," B.A. Sheppard says in his viral video, which is the perfect way to think about things during this pandemic. His son is mowing the lawn and he seized the moment to remind us all of the importance of individuality and doing things not necessarily the "right way," but the way that feels right for you.

"This young man coming toward me in this lawn mower, that's my son," Sheppard says, smiling into the camera. "He's cutting the grass and zig zagging all over the place. And you know what? It's perfectly fine. While I might have cut in a certain pattern, he's doing his thing in the way that he wants to do it. And it's totally okay. He is getting the grass cut. It may not be dad's way, but he's getting it done. And therein is the honor of the opportunity."

Sheppard continues by saying that being able to give his son space where he can figure out how he wants to get things done is a great privilege. "As a young man, I don't need him doing things exactly the way I did it," he says. "Right now, it seems like he's just cutting grass. But in my mind, because I know my son wants to be an engineer, I see his mind at work and I know that what he is producing now... it's going to help him in the future."

Sheppard concludes by giving us all a beautiful task. He challenges us to look for the honor in the opportunity of relationships that you have.

MYTH: Wearing a mask will make me sick

False. There have been a number of stories on social media posts claiming that wearing masks makes people sick by lowering oxygen and increasing carbon dioxide levels in the blood.

In fact, all masks provide adequate airflow. Just like oxygen can get in, carbon dioxide can safely get out. Tests using a device called pulse oximeters have confirmed that wearing masks cause no decline in blood-oxygen levels.

Although masks are new to most people in the community, they are common in health care settings. Doctors and nurses have many years of experience wearing masks all day. People in other jobs like construction, carpenters, and others who are exposed to a lot of dust or fumes wear masks as well.

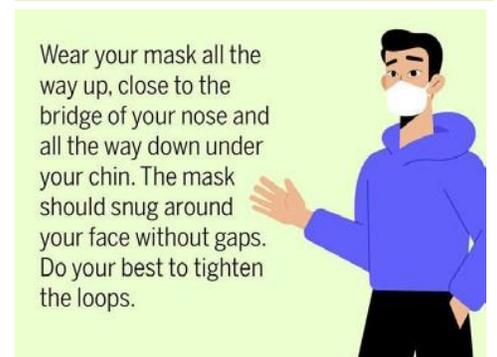
5 ways you should NOT wear your mask

TIMESOFINDIA.COM | Last updated on - Apr 13, 2020, 12:13

WHAT NOT TO DO WHILE WEARING MASKS



The coronavirus pandemic has affected more than 200 countries. With no cure for the virus yet, many states have made wearing mask mandatory in public. Though it's good news that people and governments are doing their bit to slow the spread of the deadly virus, the bad news is that most people don't know how to wear a mask correctly. If you feel a little stuffy after wearing a mask, you are probably wearing it right, say experts. One of the biggest mistakes people make is of sliding their mask under the chin when they talk in public spaces, which is absolutely wrong. Here are five DON'TS of wearing a mask and the correct way to wear it.



After 30 Years, Making Accessibility Information Accessible

Excerpted from Forbes.com article by Peter Slatin

Remember Yelp? You know, that archaic crowd-sourced web tool that helped you find a restaurant that meets all of your picky, prickly foodie prerequisites? (Yeah, I know – remember restaurants?) Well, even when restaurants were a daily and nightly thing, Yelp wasn't much help for people with disabilities looking for an accommodating, accessible place to dine. That's why creating a Yelp-like guide for people who need or simply prefer such accommodations has been one of a few Holy Grail-type goals for techies interested in accessibility and disability tech.

But despite numerous attempts, no one has really reached the scale needed to become a dependable, multi-city or national resource, and reliable information about the true accessibility of everyday destinations remains elusive at best.

Now, two women who are both longtime wheelchair users think they may have solved this riddle. Their product, 360-access.com, debuts fittingly on July 26, the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Co-founders Joann Peterson and Madonna Long are boldly asking the venues themselves to provide the information for disabled, older and other consumers—such as the presence and quantity of stairs, accessible bathrooms, Braille or online menus, hearing induction loops, sound levels and more. 360-Access will provide these opt-in venues with a survey that will enable managers to quickly note their business' accessible strengths and weaknesses, giving customers an accurate picture of what to expect. With that and a small annual sponsor fee, restaurants and other venues will become listed in the app, making it easy for consumers to choose a destination that suits.

On the consumer side, people in the disability community can become members of 360-access at no cost and will receive regular info about upcoming discounts or events involving sponsors. Members or not, they will be able to verify the venue-supplied information and add their own reviews or comments.

Such verification is critical, because sometimes compliance with ADA guidelines is, unfortunately, no guarantee of design quality, and also because some managers may make overly optimistic or even knowingly false statements about how accessible their business really is.

360-access takes a welcome reality-based approach. "We would love the world to be 100% accessible for everyone," Peterson says. "But we aren't here to talk about compliance. We're here to talk about what exists today—and in the future. If businesses provide information about the features they do have—based on ADA guidelines—then the person with a disability will be able to make an informed decision."



Census 2020

As we deal with these uncertain times and the current health crisis, one thing is for certain: the 2020 Census continues. Every 10 years we do a national count of everyone living in the country and 2020 is that year. The count we get from the 2020 Census will not only determine representation but also the funding that is used for quality of life issues such as health clinics, roads, schools and much more.

Given the COVID-19 pandemic and physical distancing recommendations, you can complete your census questionnaire online, by mail or by phone in the comfort of your home – without ever having to meet a census taker. It only takes a few minutes.

Why complete the 2020 Census?

- Billions in public funding are allocated across the country using census information for healthcare, emergency services, schools, roads and much more. An undercount in your community may result in fewer resources over the next 10 years.
- It is safe and private. In fact, federal law prohibits anyone at the Census Bureau from sharing personal census information. If they violate this law, they can face stiff penalties and jail time.
- It only asks for basic information (e.g., age, sex, race, type of housing, etc.) for all people living in your household. It does not ask for sensitive information like social security numbers, immigration status, or bank account information.
- You can complete the questionnaire online ([2020Census.gov](https://2020census.gov)), by mail, or over the phone (844-330-2020).

Thank you for committing to complete the 2020 Census and doing this one small task that will help keep Rhode Islanders safe and ensure we get funding to reflect our population for the next decade.



If you are experiencing a mental health crisis, BH Link is here for you

BH Link's mission is to ensure all Rhode Islanders experiencing mental health and substance use crises receive the appropriate services they need as quickly as possible in an environment that supports their recovery. Call 911 if there is risk of immediate danger. Visit the BH Link website at www.bhlink.org or for confidential support and to get connected to care:

CALL (401) 414-LINK (5465)

If under 18 CALL: (855) KID(543)-LINK(5465)

Visit the 24-HOUR/7-DAY TRIAGE CENTER at 975 Waterman Avenue, East Providence, RI

Stay Informed with Information on COVID-19

Rhode Island Department of Health COVID-19 Resources

Hotline (401) 222-8022 or 211 after hours;
Email RIDOH.COVID19Questions@health.ri.gov
Website <https://health.ri.gov/covid/>

Center for Disease Control COVID-19 Information

Website cdc.gov/coronavirus
Videos <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/videos.html>
Includes a link to ASL videos

BHDDH Information on COVID-19's Impact on DD Services and the DD Community

Website bhddh.ri.gov/COVID

RI Parent Information Network (RIPIN)

Website <https://ripin.org/covid-19-resources/>
Call Center (401) 270-0101 or email callcenter@ripin.org

Advocates in Action – for videos and easy to read materials

Website <https://www.advocatesinaction.org/>
Website offers BrowseAloud, which will read the website to you

Sign Up for Our Email List

If you aren't receiving email updates and newsletters from the Division, you can sign up on our website. From the main BHDDH page at bhddh.ri.gov, select **What's New**, then go to bottom and click on **DD Community Newsletter**. The link to sign up for the BHDDH Newsletter is directly below the title, as shown in the picture at right.

DD Community Newsletter
[SIGN UP FOR THE BHDDH NEWSLETTER](#)

Contacting the Division

The department is working on a reduced workforce and therefore calls should not be placed directly to your social caseworker. DDD has put 24-hour phone coverage in place with a central business hour phone number and an on-call number for nights and weekends.

If you have a vital need, please call the numbers below. If you have any general questions or concerns, please email them if you can, in order to try to leave the phone lines free for those who need to call. We will do our best to address your questions directly or through future newsletters.

AM **M T W Th F** PM
401-462-3421

8:30 AM → → → → → ← ← ← ← ← 4:00 PM

WEEKDAYS DURING BUSINESS HOURS FOR:

- **VITAL, NON-MEDICAL SUPPORT NEEDS**
- **QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR DD SERVICES**

During business hours
 (Monday-Friday 8:30-4:00),
 for questions or support
(401) 462-3421
 Para español, llame
(401) 462-3014

PM **M T W Th F** PM
401-265-7461

4:00 PM → → → → → ← ← ← ← ← 10:00 PM

AFTER HOURS ON WEEKDAYS FOR:

- **VITAL, NON-MEDICAL SUPPORT NEEDS**

For emerging or imminent care
 related questions,
 Mon - Fri 4pm-10pm and
 weekends 8:30am-10pm
(401) 265-7461

AM **SAT SUN** PM
401-265-7461

8:30 AM → → → → → ← ← ← ← ← 10:00 PM

ON WEEKENDS FOR:

- **VITAL, NON-MEDICAL SUPPORT NEEDS**

E-MAIL THE DIVISION

BHDDH.AskDD
@BHDDH.RI.GOV

HELP US KEEP THE PHONE LINES OPEN FOR THOSE WHO ARE CALLING WITH A VITAL NEED!

WHEN POSSIBLE, PLEASE SEND AN E-MAIL FOR:

- **NON-CRITICAL CONCERNS** about Your Services and Supports
- **GENERAL QUESTIONS** about Your Services or the RI DD System

Send general questions to the
 AskDD email address. Please
 do not email critical issues.
BHDDH.AskDD@bhddh.ri.gov

911

FOR MEDICAL EMERGENCIES
CALL 911
RIGHT AWAY. DON'T WAIT!

For medical or
 healthcare related
 emergencies, call
 your Primary Care
 Physician or 911

CONTACT YOUR DOCTOR

CALL FOR:

- **ROUTINE Healthcare Questions**
- **NON-EMERGENCY Medical Care**

FOLLOW YOUR DOCTOR'S ADVICE
DON'T go to their office unless they tell you to!



A Whole Spectrum of Colors Employed By Alton Stuckey June 2020

Alton Stuckey is pictured here reproducing a photo of Jerry Garcia, commissioned as a housewarming gift for a man in Florida. Creating a pencil sketch, the artist is faithful to the black and white image he is working from.

This seems a fitting symbol because, according to his friend and advocate, Mike Wilson, Stuckey “lives in a very black and white world. That is, he knows what he wants and pursues his goals with a passion that helps him filter out and overcome all barriers he has faced from people or circumstances.”

His early life was cast in dark and somber hues. As a result, he was fostered and later adopted by his personal care attendant who would not abandon him to a degraded and painful life. Being taken into the effusive warmth of Iraida Williams’ family dispelled that darkness and at age 14 he had decided to become an artist.

Early in pursuit of his career, Stuckey focused on the color wheel and how gradations in tone created a spectrum of color. He used graphic patterns to feature the prism in strong geometric images.

He is substantially self-taught, having studied the techniques of other artists. According to Rebekah Major, a professional artist and Stuckey’s business mentor, “Now, he does a lot of portraits with colored pencils, He can manipulate the color wheel to his advantage.”

While he does not use traditional measurements, he does place a grid over the image he copies and uses his own system with string to get proportion exactly right.

Major says that she has seen progress to more realistic, more three dimensional images over the five years she has been helping him develop his business. “He uses more shadowing, more highlights. You feel like you can actually touch a face he has drawn.”



Stuckey has taught other artists with disabilities at Birch School, United Cerebral Palsy of RI and RHD RI. His watercolors depicting the planets were featured in The Outsider Art Fair in Manhattan, and all sold. That contributed to the realization that there was a profitable market for his creations and fueled his growing desire for a studio of his own.

So Stuckey and Major took last year’s course in self-employment co-taught by Tracey Cunningham of the state’s Division of Developmental Disabilities and Sue Babin of the RI Developmental Disabilities Council. At the end of the series, each entrepreneur got to apply for a grant to help them establish and run their businesses.

They applied for an I-Pad, and Major taught him to use the stylus against the screen. Stuckey’s first digital image was of a snowscape on a mountain. Major says that, without any coaching from her, the image looks like an actual photograph of the landscape.

Now his supports are all self-directed. He simply rents studio space in West Bay RI’s Creative Works facility. He also participated in their JOLT employment training program. All his other relationships at the site are simply friends and personal champions, perhaps the beginning of his personal support network through PLAN RI.

Stuckey has produced a prolific body of work, including prints of African-American comedians, African-American musicians, a calendar, and popular pets, among others.

Wilson who has known and believed in him for ten years said, “Out of respect for the legitimate artist in Alton, I want to promote his well-deserved talent.” If interested in more of Stuckey’s art, people may email StuckeyAlton@gmail.com.

Disability Rights

RHODE ISLAND

The Designated Protection and Advocacy System for Rhode Island

Important VOTING Updates from DRRI

Get Ready to Vote Now!

UPCOMING ELECTIONS/DEADLINES:

- Tuesday, **September 8**, 2020, State Primary Election
 - Register by August 9, 2020
 - Apply Mail Ballot by August 18, 2020
- Tuesday, **November 3**, 2020, General Election
 - Register by October 4, 2020*
 - Apply Mail Ballot by October 13, 2020



If you have a RI License or State ID, you may register to vote or update your voter registration on-line at [https://vote.sos.ri.gov/\[r20.rs6.net\]](https://vote.sos.ri.gov/[r20.rs6.net]). Otherwise, you must complete a Voter Registration Form and return it to the election office called the Local Board of Canvassers in your city or town. Forms are available on the Secretary of State's website.

*If you miss the October 4th deadline to register for the General Election, you may still vote for president and vice president only.
We can tell you how.



WHAT'S ON THE BALLOT?

To find out what will be on your ballot on Election Day, you may call DRRI or your Local Board of Canvassers about 30 days before the election and ask them to send you a sample ballot or you can visit the Secretary of State's website at [https://vote.sos.ri.gov/\[r20.rs6.net\]](https://vote.sos.ri.gov/[r20.rs6.net]) where you can check your voter registration status and find a sample of your ballot. On the website, find your registration status, scroll to "Upcoming Elections" and then click where it says "view sample ballot" for a sample ballot for your district. Contact DRRI for help.

WAYS TO VOTE:

- ☐ In person at the polls on Election Day
- ☐ In person at your City or Town Hall in the 20 days prior to Election Day (called Emergency Mail Ballot Voting or Early Voting: call to confirm the location and hours for early voting)
- By mail. If you would like to vote by mail, you must submit your mail ballot application to your local board of canvassers. For the Primary Election, the State is not mailing applications to each voter. It is not clear whether the State will send mail ballot applications to voters for the General Election. You can find applications on the Secretary of State's website:
[https://vote.sos.ri.gov/Voter/VotebyMail \[r20.rs6.net\]](https://vote.sos.ri.gov/Voter/VotebyMail[r20.rs6.net])

You may find the location of your polling place by calling DRRI, the Secretary of State's office at (401) 222-2340, or your Local Board Canvassers. You may also obtain information about the location of your polling place by visiting the Secretary of State's website at [https://sos.ri.gov/. \[r20.rs6.net\]](https://sos.ri.gov/. [r20.rs6.net])

PHOTO ID:

For voting at the polls, Rhode Island law requires all voters to present a **VALID PHOTO IDENTIFICATION**. ID is valid if it is unexpired or expired no more than six months prior to voting. Voters will need to present one of the following forms of PHOTO ID:

- RI License
- RI Voter ID card issued by the Secretary of State's Office
- US Passport
- US educational institution ID
- US military ID
- ID card issued by US
- RI with a photo such as a RIPTA bus pass
- Government issued medical card
- Tribal ID

VOTING RIGHTS:

- You have the right to an accessible polling place
- You have the right to assistance with marking your ballot
- You have the right to use an accessible voting system
- You have the right to vote without interference
- You have the right to file an administrative complaint if you believe your rights have been violated

CALL US:

Contact **Disability Rights Rhode Island** (DRRI) at (401) 831-3150/ 1(800) 733-5332/ TTY (401) 831-5335 if you have questions about your voting rights or how to vote, believe your voting rights have been violated, or want to request that we train your group about voting rights. We are available to take your calls during business hours and when the polls are open. Please call us if you experience a disability-related barrier to accessing your polling place or casting a ballot and you wish to request our assistance.

Disability Rights Rhode Island
401-831-3150 contact@drri.org

Our answering service is available 24/7 and if you do not reach us during business hours, a member of our staff will return your call within 24 hours.