



The Newport Health Equity Zone is doing its best to keep folks updated on resources related to food, eviction, unemployment, transportation, childcare, and other basic human needs during the COVID-19 emergency. Please visit:

Newport Health Equity Zone:

<https://www.facebook.com/NewportHealthEquityZone/>

Newport Community Emergency:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2431268680430484/>

All information shared here is accurate as of 9 a.m. on 4/3/20.

Updates to this document will be posted continuously at [bit.ly/NHEZResources](https://bit.ly/NHEZResources)

## INFORMATION & RESOURCES

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## 1. Food Distribution

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### FOOD PANTRIES

- The Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center food-pantry hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., when residents can receive about a week's worth of food every two weeks, at 20 Dr. Marcus F. Wheatland Blvd. Those in need of food who are quarantined, elderly, or disabled can send a proxy with a copy of an ID (a cell-phone photo is fine), or please call 401-845-5501 to arrange a food delivery.
- The East Bay Community Action Program (EBCAP) food pantry at 19 Broadway is open by appointment only, to ensure safe distancing between clients. All food is pre-packaged, and employees will hand the bags to food-pantry guests upon arrival. Call 401-848-6697, ext. 212.
- The Salvation Army food pantry is open Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at 51 Memorial Blvd. The food pantry also is taking delivery orders for those who are quarantined, elderly, and homebound. Please call (401) 846-3234 to set up a delivery time/date. In addition, bagged lunches are being given out at the front door on Fridays and Sundays from 1 to 2 p.m.
- The Community Baptist Church at 50 Dr. Marcus F. Wheatland Blvd. has two opportunities on Saturday. The Community Grocer is open from 12:30 to 2 p.m. on Saturdays, and bagged lunches and soup are available from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. from the Annex window.  
**St. Barabas Church:** 1697 E. Main Rd. Portsmouth. Everyday 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Just drive to back of church.

### NEWPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS GRAB-&-GO BAGS

A boxed breakfast and lunch are available at the following locations and times Monday through Fridays for anyone 18 and under:

- Pell Elementary School: 12-1 p.m.
- Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center: 12:30-1:30 p.m.
- Chapel Terrace: 11-11:30 a.m.
- Festival Field: 11:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
- Bayside Village: 12:30-1 p.m.

**Please note:** the three neighborhood van/bus locations are 30-minute stops. Also, children do not need to be present for families to pick up bags.

## **CITY OF NEWPORT'S "POD"**

- Drive in for a week's worth of food at Pell Elementary School every Wednesday in April (starting April 1) at Pell Elementary School – non-perishable items for each person in your household. Families of Newport Public School students can pick up from 12 to 1 p.m., and any resident from 1:30 to 3 p.m.

## **OTHER RESOURCES**

- A bagged breakfast and coffee is available Monday-Friday, 7:30-8:30 a.m. at the Edward Street entrance of the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center.
- Seniors in need of food also can call the non-emergency number at the Newport Fire Department, (401) 846-2211, and the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center will deliver.
- Meals on Wheels frozen dinners are available for homebound residents over the age of 60 from now until May 1. The meals are frozen single-serve meals so the senior must have a freezer and microwave or regular oven. They will receive five meals in a package delivered to their door every Friday in April. Call 401-743-3197 to get on the list to receive these meals.
- For help with food and essential supplies, call St. Joseph Church's emergency services at (401) 258-5773. Leave a message with your name, phone number, and the number of people in your family.
- For families with kids at Thompson Middle School: the Newport Community School has a food pantry, and has been delivering food to homes. If you email [NCSfoodpantry@newportcommunityschool.org](mailto:NCSfoodpantry@newportcommunityschool.org), and leave your phone number, someone will call and get full info, such as food allergies and how many family members.
- Conexion Latina will assist families with gift cards on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12 to 3 p.m. with an appointment. Please call 401-585-8165. Latinx families receive priority.

## 2. Unemployment, TDI, & TCI Benefits

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### **UNEMPLOYMENT**

- To apply for unemployment benefits, click on this web link: <http://www.dlt.ri.gov/ui/fileclaim2.htm>. It is important to say that you have lost your job/income because of COVID-19, so that your benefits start right away. That checkbox shows up when you click on through the application and get to the first question, about military service. Also note: small business owners and self-employed individuals are eligible for Unemployment resulting from COVID-19.

### **TDI & TCI**

- To apply for Temporary Disability Insurance (TDI) or Temporary Caregiver Insurance (TCI), click on this web link: <https://dltweb.dlt.ri.gov/TDIReserve/Home/Index>. It is important to say that you are applying because you are unable to work because you are ill or because you are taking care of children or other family members due to COVID-19.

## 3. Transportation

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### **RIPTA**

- Regular bus service is running, on regular schedules.
- If your reduced-fare or no-fare bus pass is due to expire, it will be extended by at least a month.
- Bus riders are asked to sit six feet apart (no more than 25 people per bus).

- The Gateway Center waiting area is closed (also the one at Kennedy Plaza in Providence), but bus passes are available at Stop & Shop and online at <https://www.ripta.com/fares-passes>.
- RIPTA is cleaning the buses more often and with stronger sanitizers.
- More information on the RIPTA page on COVID-19: <https://www.ripta.com/covid-19>

#### **THE RIDE & MTM**

- The Ride paratransit service is available for eligible riders. To make a reservation, call (401) 461-9760 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 pm from Monday through Friday, and between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.
- MTM is available for non-emergency medical transportation 5 a.m. to 6 p.m. with 24-hour notice (call 1-855-330-9131).

#### **TAXI & RIDE-HAILING SERVICES**

- Orange Cab is running 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily (not on its previous 24-hour schedule).
- Atlantic Taxi Service and Island Taxi are closed.
- Uber and Lyft have stopped their car-pooling services over fears of the virus spreading among crowded passengers – they are still picking up individual riders.

#### **BIKES**

- Bike Newport has been distributing refurbished bikes during the pandemic. For now there are no bikes available, but to get on the waiting list, click on this [link](http://bit.ly/NeedABike) (bit.ly/NeedABike) to Bike Newport's website or email [allyson@bikenewportri.org](mailto:allyson@bikenewportri.org).

## **4. Childcare, Distance Learning, & Learning/Creativity Resources**

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#### **CHILDCARE**

- The governor has closed childcare centers due to the coronavirus, but the state has set up a Rhode Island link on the Care.com website for frontline workers to find private day-care – and elder-care – providers, including volunteers: <http://www.care.com/rineed>. "Premium" access to the website is free for 90 days.
- The Boys & Girls Club of Newport County is now accepting registrations for childcare for hospital workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Gov. Gina Raimondo announced the childcare emergency program would not open before Monday, April 6, but families are encouraged to register now because capacity is limited at 95 Church St., where 40 slots will be available. Registrations are being accepted at [www.bgcnewport.org](http://www.bgcnewport.org).

#### **NEWPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS – DISTANCE LEARNING**

- Distance learning has been extended through the end of April. The Newport Public Schools Facebook page has up-to-date info: <https://www.facebook.com/newportrischools/>. The Distance Learning Help Desk's phone number is 1-800-253-7122, and its email address is: [helpdesk@npsri.net](mailto:helpdesk@npsri.net).
- All students with Individual Education Plans (IEPs) are continuing to receive services during the distance learning. Reach out to your child's case manager with questions about their IEP, their services, or for assistance with modifications to the work or support for you. If you are unsure of how to contact the case manager or face other barriers, reach out the Special Education Coordinator in each building or to the Director of Student Services:
  - Preschool: Nichole Bussiere ([nicholebussiere@npsri.net](mailto:nicholebussiere@npsri.net))
  - Pell: Colleen Crotteau <[colleencrotteau@npsri.net](mailto:colleencrotteau@npsri.net)>

- Thompson: Holly Hebert <[hollyhebert@npsri.net](mailto:hollyhebert@npsri.net)>
- Rogers: Tracey Hackley <[thackley@npsri.net](mailto:thackley@npsri.net)>
- Director of Student Services: Candace Andrade <[candaceandrade@npsri.net](mailto:candaceandrade@npsri.net)>
- Make use of the Newport Public Library Reference Desk: send a question to [info@newportlibraryri.org](mailto:info@newportlibraryri.org), text 66746 and start your question with *newportlib*, or call and leave a message at 401-847-8720 x208.
- FabNewport has daily prompts to spark creativity: <https://fabnewport.org>.
- Creative Communities Collaborative has a new website for classes and resources (more will be added): <https://engageunitethrive.wixsite.com/newport>.

## 5. Health Insurance & Medicaid

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### HEALTH INSURANCE

- Many Rhode Islanders without health insurance can enroll through April 15th. Visit [HealthSourceRI.com](http://HealthSourceRI.com) to enroll; you also can use the web chat or call customer support between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday through Friday at 1-855-840-4774. Coverage will be retroactive for coronavirus testing or treatment.
- Health plans issued in Rhode Island are now providing [temporary new benefits \(bit.ly/OHICCOVID19\)](https://bit.ly/OHICCOVID19) during the COVID-19 State of Emergency

### MEDICAID

- Rhode Island Medicaid will be suspending all cut-offs and quarterly income verifications during this emergency.

## 6. Housing & Eviction

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- Evictions without a court order are illegal – and until at least April 17th, Rhode Island courts are not holding eviction hearings, because of the COVID-19 emergency. If you are unable to pay your April rent because of loss of income related to the coronavirus outbreak, it is recommended to talk to your building manager or landlord, and if possible negotiate a partial payment, so that your housing is not threatened later.
- For Newport Housing Authority residents and Section 8 voucher participants, this [flyer \(bit.ly/NewportHA\)](https://bit.ly/NewportHA) spells out what to do if you have lost income because of the coronavirus emergency.
- If you live in any other housing development in Newport and have questions about paying rent, recertifications, or other housing-related questions, Newport HEZ is doing our best to collect and compile what we learn [here \(bit.ly/NPTHousing\)](https://bit.ly/NPTHousing)

## 7. Safety & Support

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- If you or someone you know is experiencing verbal, emotional, financial, sexual, or physical abuse, the Women’s Resource Center is providing remote services throughout the crisis. Call 401.846.5263, email [info@wrcnbc.org](mailto:info@wrcnbc.org) for support. Help is also available 24/7 at 1-800-494-8100. If it is unsafe to talk on the phone, access the hotline chat feature by visiting [bvadvocacycenter.org](http://bvadvocacycenter.org) and clicking the blue “We’re Here to Help” box.
- If you or someone you know needs help with an addiction, CODAC continues to provide support remotely. To access care call 401-490-0716. For counseling support, call 401-477-0041.
- If you or someone you know needs mental-health support, call Newport Mental Health at 401-846-1213. You can also get confidential support and get connected to care at [bhlink.org](http://bhlink.org) or by calling 401-414-5465. General resources for coping during this crisis can be accessed at [bhlink.org/covid19](http://bhlink.org/covid19).

- Phones at Newport’s Emergency Operations Center are being staffed for **non-emergency** calls related to COVID-19: (401) 845-5501.
- Here is where you can go to sign up for alerts from the City of Newport: [bit.ly/NewportAlerts](https://bit.ly/NewportAlerts)

## 7. Wellness

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- The Newport County YMCA is offering health and wellness resources through "the Virtual Y" online at <https://newportymca.org/virtual-ymca/>, including video workouts as well as activities for kids and families – or connect on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/newportcountnymca/>. There's also access to videos of Zumba classes from Common Fence Point in Portsmouth at <https://fast.wistia.net/embed/channel/z5akgffrh>.
- FabNewport has daily prompts to spark creativity: <https://fabnewport.org>.
- Creative Communities Collaborative has a new website for classes and resources (more will be added): <https://engageunitethrive.wixsite.com/newport>.

## 8. Accurate Information about COVID-19/Coronavirus

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- Governor Raimondo provides a daily 1 p.m. press conference that is available on local public radio (<https://thepublicsradio.org>, or 102.7FM WNPE) and streaming online at local news station websites.
- The RI Department of Health’s COVID-19 page contains accurate and up-to-date information: <https://health.ri.gov/diseases/ncov2019/>. You can also ask questions by calling the COVID-19 Helpline at 401-222-8022 or emailing [RIDOH.COVID19Questions@health.ri.gov](mailto:RIDOH.COVID19Questions@health.ri.gov).
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19 is another resource for accurate, up-to-date information <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

## 9. Utilities, Internet, & Wifi

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- Through April 15, the RI Public Utilities Commission) will not allow shut-off service for electric, gas, water, and wastewater utility service for non-payment of bills (<http://www.ripuc.ri.gov/index.html>). This may be extended.
- National Grid is temporarily suspending collections-related activities, including service disconnections and penalties for late payments, to lessen any financial hardship the COVID-19 pandemic has on customers through the end of April. Please note that regular billing and payment schedule will continue for all customers. Customers needing help with paying their bills can go to [ngrid.com/RICOVID](https://ngrid.com/RICOVID) for more information.
- Verizon, AT&T, T-Mobile, or Sprint customers with a smart phone and wifi hot-spot feature can use it for free to access the internet on a computer or tablet with no extra overage fees.
- Cox, T-Mobile, AT&T, Sprint, Verizon, and many other internet and wi-fi providers have committed to not shutting off service as a result of a lack of payment and also waiving all late fees during the coronavirus emergency. (Please note that all bills will eventually need to be paid.) For more info and a list of providers: <https://www.fcc.gov/keep-americans-connected>.
- Cox Communications is offering Connect2Compete service with the first two months free (and \$9.95/month thereafter). To qualify, you must not be an existing Cox internet customer, and your household must: 1) have at least one K-12 student, 2) participate in the National School Lunch Program, SNAP, and/or TANF, 3) receive Tenant-Based Vouchers, Project-Based Vouchers or Section 8 Project-Based Rental Assistance (PBRA); and/or live in public housing. For more information: [bit.ly/Connect2CompeteCOVID](https://bit.ly/Connect2CompeteCOVID)