

Dear Village Members and Volunteers,

The Village Common of RI has been assessing the best practices for continuing our programs and services during the COVID-19 pandemic. Now more than ever we all want to look out for and support each other. To help safeguard everyone's health while doing so, we are asking members and volunteers to follow our current health and safety guidelines. Please read the following documents for detailed information:

- Attachment A: List of Current Village Services
- Attachment B: List of Village Common Health and Safety Guidelines
- Attachment C: Checklist of Current RI Department of Health Symptoms

This information may evolve as we gain additional science-based information from the State of RI and the Centers for Disease Control. Similarly, our programs and services will evolve as we learn more about the best ways to adapt to our new normal.

When available, we plan to distribute disposable masks, disinfectants, and hand sanitizers to all in-person service volunteers. We anticipate that the first distribution of supplies will occur in June. Volunteers who need supplies should email Liza Sutton at esutton@villagecommonri.org. We value your support and your continued input, and we look forward to seeing everyone in-person as soon as possible. This health crisis is not permanent, and with each other's help we will continue to Age Strong Together.

Best,

Jo Ellen Mistarz
Executive Director

Suzanne Francis
President, Board of Directors

Attachment A

The Village Common of RI Services as of June 1, 2020

Please Note: Services will vary based on volunteer availability and may also vary by Village location.

- 1. Office Services – Phone and Email Only.** Village staff and volunteers are working, but please do not stop by the Village office with questions. Hamilton House, where our office is located, is not open.
- 2. Connections to Help.** Our Service Coordinators in Providence and Phone Monitors in Barrington are available to answer calls and connect members and volunteers to available Village services, delivery options, and community resources.
- 3. Volunteer Provided Transportation – Essential Rides.** Volunteers are continuing to provide rides for essential medical appointments and similar needs. In lieu of office visits, we encourage members to use telehealth when advised by medical providers. We can assist with telehealth when requested.
- 4. Errands and Shopping.** We appreciate that volunteers are willing to provide errands, such as picking up groceries or going to the pharmacy. We ask volunteers to practice social distancing and leave items outside the house whenever possible. A CDC document on running errands safely is at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/essential-goods-services.html>
- 5. Help at Home.** Volunteers may elect to help members with chores and household repairs. Many of these activities may occur outside the house.
- 6. Contractor Referrals.** The Village will continue to provide referrals to local providers who can assist with projects.
- 7. Tech Support.** Tech support is available on the phone and online. On select occasions, in-person support may be available.
- 8. Social Engagements – Physically Distanced, Socially Connected.** Our online Virtual Village calendar offers many social, informational, and educational events. The Virtual Village is accessible by computer or by phone. We will reinstate in-person events according to State guidelines and when it is safe for our older adult community. At some point, smaller in-person meetings in select settings, such as meeting outdoors and at a distance, may be possible.
- 9. Volunteer Support.** The Village Common will provide volunteers with necessary PPE as much as possible, based on volunteer needs and the availability of supplies. We will continue to conduct volunteer training online. We are open to training new volunteers, as well as training existing volunteers to help in new ways

Attachment B

The Village Common of RI Member and Volunteer Health Guidelines as of June 1, 2020

- 1. Monitor Your Health Status.** Members and volunteers who interact in-person **must** follow all health and safety precautions and monitor themselves for COVID-19 symptoms and quarantine requirements. These are listed on the RI Department of Health website at <https://health.ri.gov/diseases/ncov2019/>. Please consider downloading and using the CRUSH COVID RI app if you have a smartphone.
- 2. Check Your Symptoms Daily, especially before an in-person encounter.**
MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS WITH COVID-19 SYMPTOMS, POSITIVE TEST RESULTS, AND RELATED RISK FACTORS SUCH AS TRAVEL WITHIN 14 DAYS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR IN-PERSON SERVICES. Please call us if you have any questions about your eligibility.
- 3. Use Protective Equipment.** All members and volunteers are required to wear a mask when in the presence of others during Village interactions.
- 4. Use Caution During Volunteer Rides and in Homes.** Passengers should sit in the back seat. Wear a mask. Use fresh air instead of recirculating air in your car. Use hand sanitizers and disinfectants.
- 5. Maintain Social Distancing.** If members and volunteers meet inside a residence for home services or tech support, please maintain appropriate social distancing by staying at least 6 feet apart.
- 6. Disinfect.** When members and volunteers interact inside a house or auto, please follow the CDC guidance for disinfecting and appropriate cleaning procedures. One useful resource is at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/disinfecting-your-home.html>
- 7. Keep a “Contact Diary.”** Keep track of your personal encounters. If an infection is detected, you can contact and inform all parties.
- 8. Watch for Updates.** The Village Common is monitoring the healthcare situation and will adjust Village policy when advisable.

The Village Common of RI

Member and Volunteer Covid-19 Screening Questions Prior to In-Person Interactions

(Adapted from The State of RI's Screening Tool)

SYMPTOMS (

Have you had any of the following symptoms in the past three days that are not explained by allergies or a noninfectious cause?	YES	NO
Cough		
Shortness of breath or difficult breathing		
Fever		
Chills		
Muscle or body aches		
Sore throat		
Headache		
Nausea or vomiting		
Diarrhea		
Runny or stuffy nose		
Fatigue		
Recent loss of sense of taste or smell		

RISK FACTORS

	YES	NO
Have you been in close contact (less than six feet) with anyone with COVID-19 or symptoms of COVID-19 in the past 14 days? ¹		
Have you traveled anywhere outside the 50 United States in the past 14 days?		
Have you traveled to Rhode Island for a non-work-related purpose from a location with a high community spread rate (see list maintained by the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) at www.health.ri.gov/covid) ²		
Have you been directed to quarantine or isolate by the Rhode Island Department of Health or a healthcare provider in the past 14 days? If so, when does/did your quarantine or isolation period end?		

A "YES" IN RESPONSE TO ANY QUESTION DISQUALIFIES A MEMBER FROM RECEIVING SERVICES.

A "YES" IN RESPONSE TO ANY QUESTION DISQUALIFIES A VOLUNTEER FROM PROVIDING SERVICES.

NO EXCEPTIONS! EVERYONE'S HEALTH & SAFETY IS OUR #1 PRIORITY!

¹ Does not apply to people who come into contact with people with symptoms of COVID-19 during the course of their daily work while wearing full and appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE). See <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assesment-hcp.html> for more information.

² Public health, public safety, and healthcare workers are exempt. Does not apply to anyone traveling for medical treatment, to attend funeral or memorial services, to obtain necessities like groceries, gas, or medication, to drop off or pick up children from daycare, summer camps, or to anyone who must work on their boats. Does not apply to people who have had a negative COVID-19 test from a specimen taken no more than 72 hours prior to arrival in Rhode Island.