



Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation
Division of Building, Design & Fire Professionals

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Dear Colleagues,

As you know, the construction industry contributes greatly to our state's economic health and its continued growth. Despite the challenges posed by Covid-19, the industry continues to operate and relies on local and state Building Departments continuing their permitting and inspection responsibilities.

On our end, the State Building Office has made several adjustments to its Inspection Protocol that minimize the risk of exposure to our inspectors, as well as the population we serve. We'd like to share them with you and encourage you to do the same:

1. Limit inspections to one-on-one contact, utilize appropriate social distancing and wear protective gloves, were necessary.
2. Utilize the technology you have.
 - a. Allow the use of photographs and/or videos to take the place of an inspection when possible; and/or
 - b. Perform "virtual" inspections through tele-conferencing means: Facetime, Skype, Zoom, WebEx, etc.
3. Before setting out for an inspection, call and ask whether:
 - a. Any individual who will be on the jobsite has been exposed to anyone with Covid-19, and/or is experiencing flu like symptoms
 - b. Anyone on the jobsite is at a higher risk for infection, i.e. elderly, immune-suppressed individuals and pregnant women.
4. Follow all R.I. Department of Health and CDC recommendations for protecting yourself and others. These steps include:
 - Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
 - If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
 - Avoid close contact with people who are sick

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT THE STATE BUILDING OFFICE AT: (401) 889-5550