

**RI DEM Division of Fish and Wildlife**

**Aquatic Resource Education, Hunter Education and Wildlife**

**Outreach programs**

Conducted by RI DEM Fish & Wildlife Staff

1B Camp E-Hun-Tee Place

Exeter, RI 02822

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RI DEM Division of Fish & Wildlife offers a variety of public programming through the Hunter Safety Education, Aquatic Resource Education and Wildlife Outreach programs. Programs include hunter and bowhunter safety courses, safe and responsible fishing training, teacher training, and environmental education opportunities for Rhode Islanders of all ages. As Rhode Island begins Phase 3 of the COVID-19 reopening plan, the DEM Division of Fish and Wildlife will begin offering these educational opportunities to the public.

### **Fish and Wildlife COVID-19 Control Plan for Educational Programming or Training**

In accordance with current executive orders and Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) regulations, the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) Division of Fish & Wildlife Aquatic Resource Education Program (ARE) has developed this COVID-19 Control Plan for its educational programming or training, in accordance with applicable executive orders, RIDOH regulations and guidelines. Any protocols stated in this Control Plan are in addition to any current requirements or protocols set forth by DEM or DOA as they apply to state employees or offices. This Control Plan will apply to DEM employees, instructors, volunteers, partner organizations and program participants. The Control Plan will be updated as necessary. Any protocols stated herein will be posted and presented verbally to persons attending any program or training. When possible, written copies of COVID-19 related protocols will be provided to all persons attending, participating in or working at the program or training in advance.

#### **General Operations**

- All Fish and Wildlife educational programs will be limited in size in accordance with current executive orders, RIDOH regulations or guidelines.
- Participants who are not in household groups, will be spaced at least six (6) feet apart from one another and will be advised to maintain six (6) feet of physical distance throughout the program or training. Fourteen (14) feet should be maintained between all education program participants and other groups
- All persons participating in education programs or trainings must wear a face covering in accordance with current executive orders, RIDOH regulations, and guidance. Additional information regarding face coverings can be found at [www.reopeningri.com](http://www.reopeningri.com). All persons attending the educational programming and training must supply their own face covering.
- All program participants and staff are subject to COVID-19 screening. The [screening tool](#) provide on [reopeningri.com](http://reopeningri.com) site will be posted at all programs and trainings. Participants who responds positively to any of the screening questions will be advised to remain home and isolate.
- Participants and staff will be advised that if they are currently sick or not feeling well, they should remain home and isolate.
- Out-of-State participants may participate in programs and trainings in accordance with current executive orders. In Phase III this means, out-of-state participants traveling from states with a 5% or greater COVID-19 positive test rate must either have quarantined in Rhode Island for 14 days prior to the program or training, or have received a negative COVID-19 test result within 72 hours prior to the date of the program or training. A current list of states and locales with travel restrictions can be found [here](#).

- Fish and Wildlife education program staff will retain a record of contact information of all participants for at least thirty days, after which said information will be destroyed, in accordance with current executive orders, RIDOH regulations and guidance. Said information will be available to RIDOH for contract tracing purposes only, should any participants be determined COVID-19 positive.

### **Cleaning and Sanitizing**

- In addition to any building's current COVID-19 cleaning and sanitizing schedule which addresses the frequent cleaning of high touch areas (including restrooms) or equipment and the daily cleaning of all areas in accordance with RIDOH guidelines. Staff will ensure that all tables, surfaces, items or equipment that may be used for educational programming or training will be properly cleaned and disinfected prior to the start of the program or training and following the end of the program or training.
- Any items or equipment that are shared between participants will be properly sanitized between uses by participants.
- All persons attending education programs or trainings will have access to soap and water and/or hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Staff will ensure that all supplies of soap and/or hand sanitizer are stocked and replenished as needed.
- Any water or snacks provided will be individually packaged and handed to participants by gloved staff member(s). Participants will be required to wash and or sanitize hands before and after eating.