

April 20, 2020
Revised FAQ's (Frequently Asked Questions)
Based on revised Ordinance dated 04/20/2020

1. When does the order take effect?

The original emergency ordinance was effective as of 12:01 p.m. on Wednesday, March 18, 2020. The amendments were effective as of 5:00 p.m. on March 24, 2020, and the entire emergency ordinance, as amended, is in effect until midnight on May 8th, 2020.

An amendment goes into effect on April 20, 2020 that refines the list of Essential Activities and establishes a Worker Activities that are permissible with clear restrictions.

2. Are Block Island Residents required to "Stay at Home"?

Yes, as of Monday, March 23, 2020 the Block Island Town Council voted to issue a "Shelter-in-Place" Order effective Tuesday, March 24, 2020 at 5:00 PM that was amended on April 20, 2020 and is in effect at least until May 8th at midnight unless further modified. The "Shelter-in-Place" Order means remaining at your residence except for Essential Activities; however, people may leave their homes for outside activities such as walks and exercise, but social distancing must be maintained and the CDC and Rhode Island Department of Health guidelines must be followed. This is outlined in the Order and we have also developed a series of FAQs to help with the most common questions that people have about when and why they may leave their homes.

3. Where does the "Quarantine" and "Stay at Home" order apply?

This order includes the entirety of the island. Unless you work for an Essential Activity or a Work Activity, you should stay home. Read the entire order at www.new-shoreham.com

4. What does Quarantine really mean?

The term "Self-Quarantine" means that you must proceed from the ferry or airport directly to your residence without making any stops, remain at your residence except for medical care or emergencies, have food and other necessities delivered, and monitor yourself for symptoms such as fever, cough and shortness of breath. Everyone coming to the island needs to quarantine for 14 days.

5. Will grocery stores and liquor stores be open?

Yes, essential services will still be operating with restrictions – please check the business to understand accommodations.

6. What is an Essential Activity?

The term "Essential Activities" includes activities relating to the following: public safety; public works; medical care; emergency and/or scheduled veterinary care; public utilities such as water, sewer and electric; sale and purchase of gasoline, sale and purchase of propane and heating oil; delivery of medicines; transfer station; sale and purchase of liquor as provided in this emergency ordinance; sale and purchase of hardware and lumber; post office; package delivery; sale and purchase of groceries; sale and purchase of take-out food from establishments that were open at any

time during the period January 2, 2020 through April 11, 2020; banking; education as it directly relates to development of curriculum and its distribution; farming and agriculture; commercial fishing, lobstering and shellfishing; emergency appliance repair, emergency telecommunications network repair; emergency exterminator services; emergency heating repair; emergency heating installation; and emergency vehicle repairs.

7. What does it “Shelter in Place” really mean and what is “Worker Activity”?

The term "Shelter-in-Place" means remaining at your residence except for activities relating to Essential Activities; however, people may leave their residences to conduct the following activities regardless of whether they are Essential Activities:

a. Outside Activities: People may engage in outside activities such as walks and exercise, but social distancing must be maintained and the CDC and Rhode Island Department of Health guidelines must be followed.

b. Work Activities: This subparagraph of the Shelter-In-Place definition shall go into effect Monday April 20, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. People may engage in the following work activities: construction; plumbing; electrical work; site development; landscaping; mowing; painting; foundation installation, septic removal or installation, building repair; veterinary services, appliance repair; vehicle repair; telecommunications network repair; house watching; exterminator services; remodeling; and heating and cooling repair and installation; provided, however, that these work activities may only be conducted under the following conditions:

- prior to working on a job site, a worker must inform the Town Manager's designee as posted on the Town's website (in addition to such other posting places as the Town Manager may determine appropriate);
- no more than two (2) people may be present at any job site regardless of the type of work being performed;
- workers must wear face masks and have hand washing and/or hand sanitizer readily available on site;
- workers may not travel to and from the job site together;
- workers may not share hand tools;
- workers must maintain a daily log of personal contacts; and
- workers must maintain social distancing and the CDC and Rhode Island Department of Health Guidelines must be followed.

8. Do workers doing Essential Work and Work Activities need to register

Yes. The must contact the Town Manager designee as posted on the Town of New Shoreham website and let them know the location of the planned work.

9. Will grocery stores and liquor stores be open?

Yes, essential services will still be operating with restrictions – please check the business to understand accommodations.

10. Is the Block Island Ferry and New England Airlines still operating?

Yes, the ferry service and plane service are operating, but on limited schedules. Please check their websites for updated information. The Town encourages all residents to avoid any travel unless absolutely necessary both to and from the island to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus.

11. Can I order food? What about going to the Block Island Grocery or Depot?

Yes, you can still order take or delivery from restaurants or go grocery shopping. The grocery store is doing curbside-pick-up-only. Please, remember to practice social distancing when you do your grocery shopping. Meal-delivery, and take-out options will still be available by those restaurants, cafes, and food trucks that choose to participate.

12. Can I walk my dog?

You are allowed to walk your dog or to take it to the vet if needed. Be sure to practice social distancing while out on walks, maintaining at least 6 feet from others.

13. Should I stock up on food, necessities like toilet paper, and on medicines?

No. You will be able to purchase groceries and have medicine delivered.

Continue to buy normal quantities of these items on the same schedule you normally do. This will ensure that there is enough for everyone. Whenever you are out, remember to practice social distancing.

14. What happens if I don't comply with this order?

You could be fined up to \$500 per day and 30 days in jail per offense.

15. What about trash?

The Transfer Station is still open regular hours. Haulers are considered essential and will continue to pick up public garbage and dumpsters. Individuals make take their own trash to the Transfer Station as usual. The Town reminds everyone to use precautions and to practice safe social distancing.

16. Can I still go to church?

Not at the House of Worship. The State of Rhode Island prohibits meeting in groups over 5. For this reason, all Houses of Worship on Block Island have stopped gathering in person, however, some of these groups are holding on-line services. Check with the House of Worship for schedules.

17. My neighbors just returned from a trip and they are not self-quarantining. What should I do?

If you are concerned, please call the Block Island Police Department at 401-466-3220.

18. I went off island for 3 hours to the doctor and I just got home. Do I have to Self-quarantine?

Yes. Everyone arriving on Block Island must immediately Self-Quarantine for two weeks, and thereafter must Shelter in Place and follow CDC and Rhode Island Department of Health guidelines.