

Dear Students,

We realize this coronavirus talk may sound like it doesn't affect you, but it does. We need your help to stop this disease from hurting people across our city and state. The most important thing you can do to help is to avoid being in groups for the next few weeks, since that is how this disease spreads.

Today in fact, the Governor of Rhode Island actually prohibited gatherings of more than 25 people. She also prohibited restaurants from serving in-house meals beginning tomorrow. Take out and delivery will be okay.

We are directing all Rhode Islanders – including students - to avoid doing some of the things everyone loves to do – going out to eat, going to the mall, playing sports in large crowds, and hanging out in groups.

As we work to protect all Rhode Islanders, it's important that you keep in mind the CDC's guidance regarding social distancing. This means not getting together with groups of people and staying 6 feet away from other people whenever possible. This may make the difference between you and your family -- especially anyone over 60, like your grandparents -- getting seriously sick or worse.

This moment, right now, is a critical moment for us to contain the coronavirus as much as possible. We need to do all we can not to overwhelm the healthcare system. I know this is hard – but even if you are feeling healthy, you must practice social distancing so as to protect the people you love, your neighbors and your friends.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alexander-Scott", written in a cursive style.

Director Alexander-Scott  
Rhode Island Department of Health