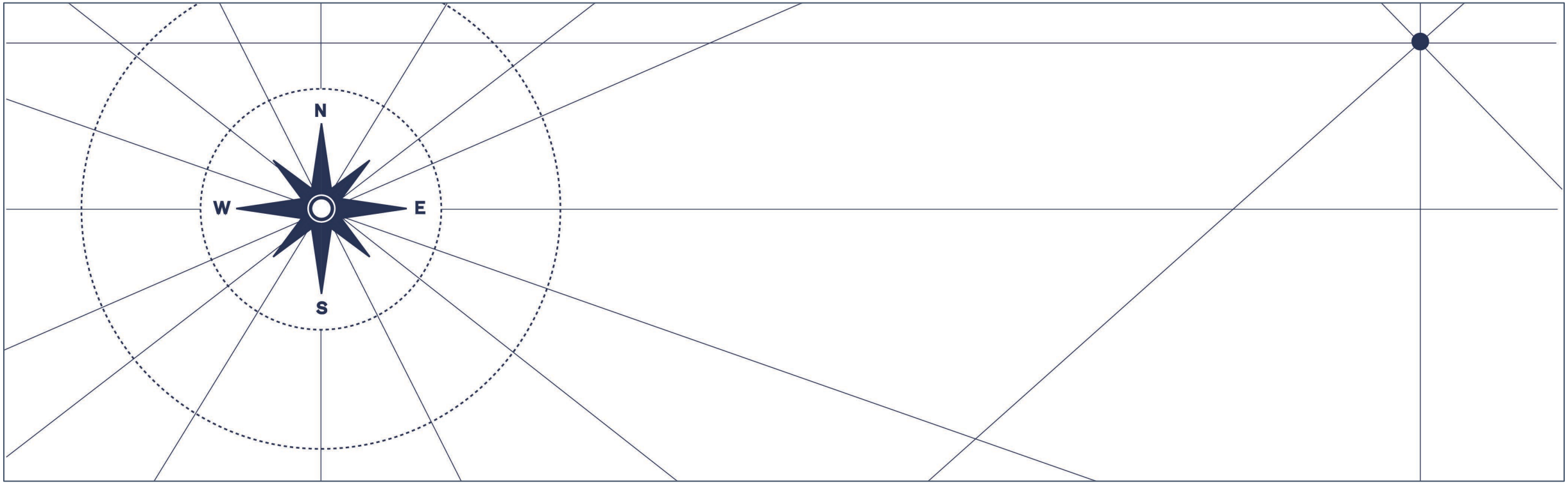


REOPENING RI: CHARTING THE COURSE

April 27, 2020

RHODE ISLAND

THE CHALLENGE

We've been weathering a storm.

This is an unprecedented situation.
We're facing a public health crisis with devastating economic consequences.

We're weathering the storm.
We've hunkered down to save lives and to give ourselves time to prepare. While we've maintained economic activity through the crisis and closed fewer sectors than neighboring states, the economic toll has still been enormous.

We're better prepared.
Many significant challenges for public health and economic health remain. The good news is we have now had time to prepare our hospital system, ramp up our testing abilities, and we're making plans to adapt.

Guided by the latest science and a data-driven approach.
Our understanding of the virus continues to evolve, and we are also able to learn from the experiences of those around us while gathering the latest data on the effects of the virus in Rhode Island.

Reopening RI safely is our top priority.
The economy won't reopen with the flick of a switch. To begin reopening safely, we must use a targeted approach based on facts.

THE CONTEXT

We'll get to our destination together.

Partnership is key.
We're in this together. We've talked with thousands of Rhode Islanders. We engage regularly with medical experts, healthcare providers, business leaders, labor representatives, municipal leaders, community groups, and other stakeholders. We take their feedback seriously.

We want all of Rhode Island to benefit from your ideas.
This is just the beginning. Rhode Islanders are known for our creativity and our ability to solve problems, no matter how challenging. If you have ideas, we want to hear from you. Submit your suggestions here.

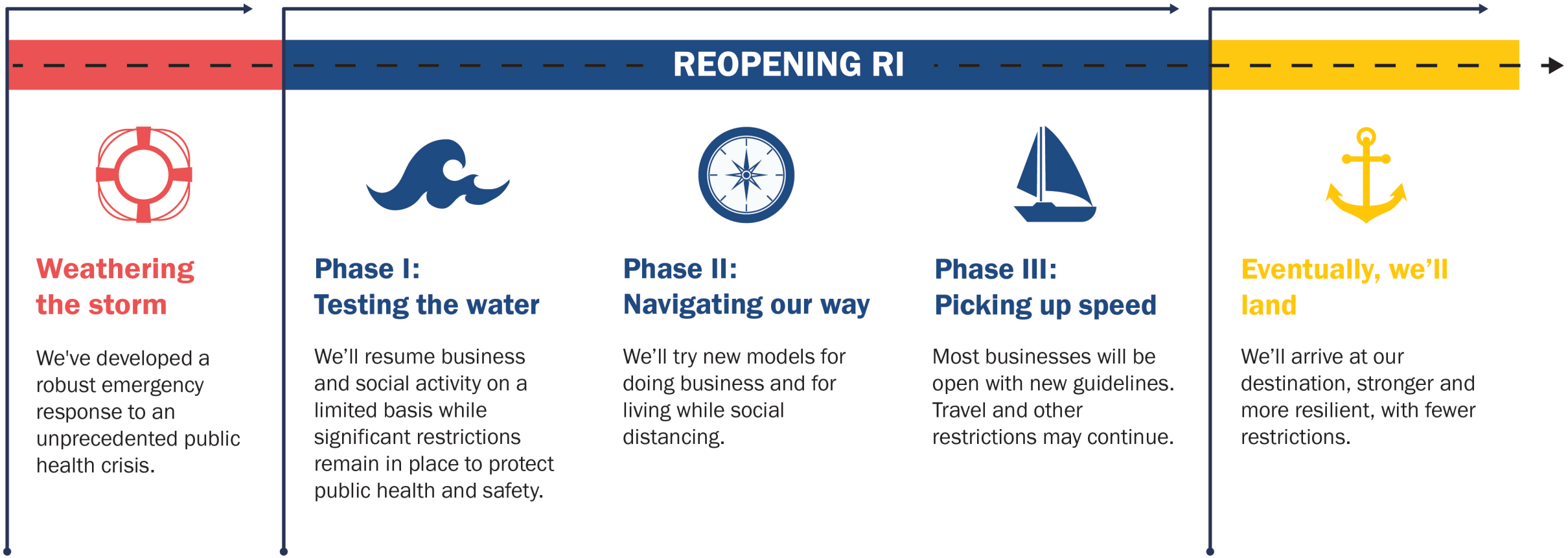
No state can do this alone.
We're learning from the experiences across the world and coordinating with neighboring states as well as our federal partners.

We must plan, but we also have to be flexible.
Reopening the economy requires thoughtful planning. Rhode Islanders want to know what lies ahead. But we also need to be prepared to adapt to evolving and unprecedented circumstances. We will communicate updates every week.

New challenges and opportunities lie ahead.
We don't know exactly what our new destination will look like, and we almost certainly will face setbacks. But we know Rhode Islanders will emerge from this challenge stronger and more resilient.

THE PLAN

Our strategy to reopen the economy is a phased approach to maintain flexibility.



Weathering the storm

We've developed a robust emergency response to an unprecedented public health crisis.

Phase I: Testing the water

We'll resume business and social activity on a limited basis while significant restrictions remain in place to protect public health and safety.

Phase II: Navigating our way

We'll try new models for doing business and for living while social distancing.

Phase III: Picking up speed

Most businesses will be open with new guidelines. Travel and other restrictions may continue.

Eventually, we'll land

We'll arrive at our destination, stronger and more resilient, with fewer restrictions.

PHASE I: TESTING THE WATER

In the first phase, we can look forward to seeing friends and family again.

The stay at home order is lifted, but social gatherings are **limited to 10 people.** Older adults (65+) and those with underlying health conditions can go to work and go out for food or medicine. But in accordance with federal public health guidance, vulnerable individuals are strongly encouraged to otherwise stay home. **Masks, vigilant hand-washing and increased cleaning** must remain in place. And everyone who can work from home should **still work from home.** All activities must account for **strong social distancing guidelines of remaining 6-feet apart**.

PHASE I: TESTING THE WATER (CONT.)

In the first phase, we can look forward to seeing friends and family again.

In addition:

- Some parks begin to reopen with strong social distancing guidelines.
- Elective medical procedures resume under new safety protocols.
- Primary care and community health providers remain open. Other allied health professions reopen with updated safety protocols (i.e. physical therapists, behavioral therapists, etc.). Pilot reopening of dentists' offices under strict new regulations.
- Limited childcare options are available with strong social distancing guidelines.
- School buildings remain closed, and distance learning continues.
- Retail locations allow in-store pickup of pre-orders. There is potential for allowing browsing under new restrictions.
- Offices should emphasize remote work but can allow limited numbers of employees on site in accordance with new guidelines.
- Restaurants remain open for pickup, delivery, and drive-through (with offerings modestly expanded). Pilots of seated dining begin, including outdoor dining.
- Pilot openings of hair salons and barbers begin with significant restrictions to protect public health and safety.
- Manufacturers and construction sites continue operations under existing and evolving guidance.

PHASE II: NAVIGATING OUR WAY

In the second phase, we can look forward to more businesses reopening and restrictions being further relaxed.

Expanded childcare options will be available under strict public health guidelines. **More restaurants, retail and close-contact businesses like hair and nail salons may open.** Additional recreational options will likely return including **more parks and beaches**, but restrictions remain. Social gathering limits **increase to 15 people.** Older adults (65+) and those with underlying health conditions can go to work and go out for food or medicine. But in accordance with federal public health guidance, vulnerable individuals are still strongly encouraged to otherwise stay home. **Masks, vigilant hand-washing and increased cleaning** must remain in place. Offices will ease capacity restrictions allowing more people to come in, **but many people will still work from home.** All activities must account for **strong social distancing guidelines of remaining 6-feet apart.**

PHASE III: PICKING UP SPEED

In the third phase, we'll build on our learning from the first two phases.

We can look forward to **schools opening** with restrictions and seeing more of our families and friends. **Offices, restaurants, retail and other businesses will lift some of the tightest restrictions** to allow more people in at one time but will need to operate under long-term safety guidelines. Social gatherings are **limited to 50 people.** Older adults (65+) and those with underlying health conditions are no longer strongly encouraged to stay home. These individuals are reminded to exercise significant caution in public. **Masks, vigilant hand-washing and increased cleaning** must remain in place. **Working from home is still encouraged** where possible but more people will return to the workplace. All activities must account for **strong social distancing guidelines of remaining 6-feet apart.**

BEYOND PHASE III

There is more to look forward to on the other side of the third phase.

Gathering and working restrictions will further relax. Additional businesses will open, and more group activities will be allowed. Along the way, we'll innovate as we challenge ourselves to find new and better ways of operating and living.

KEY INDICATORS

We'll begin reopening Rhode Island when we can answer "yes" to these questions.

01 Has the rate of spread continued to decrease?

02 Do we have the capacity to quickly identify community spread on an ongoing basis before a major outbreak occurs?

03 Do we have the necessary supports in place for vulnerable populations and for anyone in quarantine?

04 Does our healthcare system have the capacity and the PPE to handle future surges?

05 Do businesses, schools, childcare sites, faith organizations, and recreational spaces have plans for long-term social distancing?

06 Are we prepared to reimpose measures, or reclose certain sectors of the economy, if it becomes necessary?

MOVING BETWEEN PHASES

- To move between phases, we must see in each phase:
  - A 14-day downward trend in the number of cases OR
  - A 14-day trend in stable or declining hospitalizations.
- We also must:
  - Be capable of identifying community spread through:
    - Testing all symptomatic people within 48-72 hours and running consistent random sample testing.
    - Ensuring all communities in RI have access to testing, especially those that have been disproportionately impacted.
    - Ensuring the overwhelming majority of contact tracing and case investigation is complete in 24 hours.
  - Meet the overwhelming majority of needs for those in quarantine and isolation.
  - Have at least 30% of ICU beds open and sufficient PPE to protect healthcare workers.
  - Have developed appropriate workplace guidance and regulations to support sectors in safely reopening.
  - Be prepared to use a data-based approach to assess trends and determine if restrictions need to be reinstated.

We will continue to use a data-driven approach to decision making, but flexibility is key. If it's possible to reopen more quickly, we will. If we have to add further restrictions to protect public health, we will.

THE GOAL

Eventually we'll land, with the storm well behind us; stronger for having gotten through it together.