



Rhode Island-Northeast Winter Storms

02/23/2026

Office of the Governor

Governor Dan McKee
82 Smith St
Providence, RI 02903
401-222-2080

[Welcome to the Office of Governor Dan McKee | Governor's Office, State of Rhode Island](#)

[Daniel McKee - YouTube](#)

[Governor Dan McKee \(@GovDanMcKee\) / X](#)

[Governor Dan McKee | Facebook](#)

[Governor Dan McKee \(@govdanmckee\) • Instagram photos and videos](#)

Press Release 2/22/2026

“Governor Dan McKee today declared a State of Emergency for Rhode Island, issued a travel ban, and enabled the activation of the Rhode Island National Guard as needed ahead of blizzard conditions that will impact the entire state beginning on Sunday evening. The Governor is also activating the State Emergency Operations Center for the duration of the storm.

“We’re asking Rhode Islanders to take this storm seriously and stay home,” Governor McKee said. “This is an all-hands-on-deck response. Our state agencies have the resources and manpower they need to respond and keep Rhode Islanders safe.”

Forecast

The National Weather Service has issued a blizzard warning for Rhode Island beginning on Sunday, February 22, at 4:00 p.m. through Tuesday, February 24, at 7:00 a.m. The current forecast shows the potential for 18 to 24 inches of heavy, wet snow with wind gusts up to 60 mph across the state. The heaviest accumulation, along with whiteout conditions are expected between 1:00 a.m. and noon on Monday. Blizzard conditions are expected to create hazardous travel, with severely reduced visibility and the potential for power outages.

Travel Bans

Beginning on Sunday, February 22, 2026, at 5 p.m., there will be a restriction on commercial vehicle travel on all roads statewide. Beginning on Sunday, February

22, 2026, at 7 p.m., there will be a restriction on all motor vehicle travel on all roads statewide. These restrictions will be in effect until further notice. Vehicles transporting emergency supplies and/or emergency personnel will be exempt from these restrictions.

The order can be viewed [here](#).

State Government Operations

State government offices will be closed on Monday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. During the State of Emergency, all non-essential state personnel are relieved from duty. Essential personnel, as determined by their respective agencies, should report to work and/or remain at work.

Earlier this morning, the Governor convened agency directors across state government and municipal leaders and emergency managers to ensure a strong coordinated response across state and local government.

The Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) has approximately 500 state and vendor plows and 60,000 tons of salt available. Roads have been thoroughly pretreated, and crews will be reporting well in advance of the storm.

The Executive Office of Housing announced the activation of all emergency pop-up sites to help Rhode Islanders in need remain safe and warm during the storm. The following emergency pop-up sites operated by the R.I. Council of Churches will be open from 5:00 p.m. tonight to 7:00 a.m. Tuesday, February 24. To access a site listed below, individuals should first go to Matthewson Street Church.

Matthewson Street Church – 134 Matthewson St., Providence

Community Church of Providence – 372 Wayland Ave., Providence

Open Table of Christ – 1520 Broad St., Providence

A fourth emergency pop-up site, operated by the Town of West Warwick, will be open from 5:00 p.m. tonight to 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, February 24. To access this site, individuals can go directly to the address below.

West Warwick Civic Center – 100 Factory St., West Warwick

These emergency pop-up sites are opening in addition to shelters in communities across the state—no one will be turned away without a place to go. For a full list visit <https://housing.ri.gov/resources/individuals-experiencing-homelessness>.”

Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency

Rhode Island Department of Emergency Management
645 New London Ave
Cranston, RI 02920
401-946-9996

[Welcome | Emergency Management Agency](#)

[Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency | Cranston RI | Facebook](#)

[RI Emergency Management Agency \(@rhodeislandema\) • Instagram photos and videos](#)

[RI Emergency Management Agency \(@RhodeIslandEMA\) / X](#)

[Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency - YouTube](#)

American Red Cross

American Red Cross of Rhode Island
100 Niantic Ave
Providence, RI 02907
877-287-3327

[Rhode Island Region | American Red Cross](#)

[American Red Cross Rhode Island | Providence RI | Facebook](#)

[RI Red Cross \(@RIRedCross\) / X](#)

[American Red Cross Connecticut and Rhode Island - YouTube](#)

Open Shelters:

For the most up to date map of open shelters, please visit:

[Disaster Shelters | Find Shelters | American Red Cross](#)

Department of Transportation

Rhode Island Department of Transportation
Two Capital Hill
Providence, RI 02903
(401) 222-2450

[Home - Rhode Island Department of Transportation](#)

[Rhode Island Department of Transportation | Providence RI | Facebook](#)

[RIDOTNews \(@RIDOTNews\) / X](#)

[\(@ridotnews\) • Instagram photos and videos](#)

United Way/211 Information and Referrals Lines

These information and referral lines may know of additional resources currently providing assistance, such as food pantries, clothing closets, emergency shelters, and agencies offering financial assistance. Please dial 2-1-1 and provide your zip code and demographic information in order to receive referrals. Information can also be obtained at [Call 211 for Essential Community Services | United Way 211](#).

Rhode Island 211

[211 – United Way of Rhode Island](#)

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

(800) 621-3362

[FEMA.gov](#)

Please visit the website and click on “*Disaster Declarations*”. If a disaster is declared, please call to apply for assistance by phone, or visit: [Individual Assistance | FEMA.gov](#) to apply online.

DisasterAssistance.gov

[Home | disasterassistance.gov](#)

Offers information about local resources for disasters, including: FEMA Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs), Red Cross, food, shelter, state emergency management agencies, and hospital locators.

To determine if individual disaster assistance is available through FEMA, please visit the website and enter the address.

To locate your local state emergency management agency for disaster information and updates, please visit: [Search Your Location | FEMA.gov](#)

American Red Cross National

(800) 733-2767

[American Red Cross | Help Those Affected by Disasters](#)

National Weather Service

Weather alerts by state are available at: [Active Alerts \(weather.gov\)](#).

The Weather Channel

Local forecasts and severe weather.

[National and Local Weather Radar, Daily Forecast, Hurricane and information from The Weather Channel and weather.com](#).

Safe Travel USA

[SafeTravelUSA](#)

National Traffic And Road Closure Information

[National Traffic and Road Closure Information | Federal Highway Administration \(dot.gov\)](#)

Free Help Line

Optum, a leading health and behavioral health services company, is offering a free emotional-support help line.

The toll-free number, 866-447-3573, will be open Monday-Friday, 8am-8pm CST. The service is free of charge and open to anyone. Specially trained Optum mental health specialists help people manage their stress and anxiety so they can continue to address their everyday needs. Callers may also receive referrals to community resources to help them with specific concerns, including financial and legal matters.

Along with the toll-free help line, emotional-support resources and information are available online at <https://www.liveandworkwell.com>.