

## Policy on Adverse Weather and Other Emergencies

<b>Policy Title</b>	Policy on Adverse Weather and Other Emergencies
<b>Policy #</b>	01.110.1
<b>Policy Owner</b>	Vice President for Administration and Finance
<b>Contact Information</b>	Questions regarding this policy should be directed to the Vice President for Administration and Finance at (401) 874-2433
<b>Approved By</b>	Administrative Policy Committee
<b>Effective Date</b>	June 7, 2022
<b>Next Review Date</b>	No later than June 30, 2023
<b>Who Needs to Know About this Policy</b>	All faculty, staff, students, and Affiliates of the University
<b>Definitions</b>	<p><b>Emergency.</b> An event, including 1) natural disasters such as a floods, earthquakes, hurricanes or similar events that cause significant property damage or loss of life; 2) declared public health emergencies; 3) Rhode Island state of emergency as designated via executive order by the governor of Rhode Island, 4) U.S national state of emergency as declared by the President of the United States; or 5) other situations that significantly disrupt the normal operations of the University, such as adverse weather events, institutional cyberattacks, infrastructure failure, or similar disruptions.</p> <p><b>Employee.</b> Any person employed by the University, including faculty and staff, regardless of the source of funds within the University.</p> <p><b>Essential Employee.</b> For the purposes of this policy, an Employee identified in a department's or unit's Business Continuity Plan as critical to the operations of the University.</p> <p><b>University Affiliate.</b> Any individual who is not a faculty member, staff, or student who otherwise has a formal relationship with the University, including but not limited to visiting scholars, visiting students, research fellows, professional program participants, club sports coaches, and volunteers as well as Employees and associates of the URI Foundation and Alumni Engagement, URI Research Foundation, and members of the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees. Vendors and contractors are not considered University Affiliates, except for those with an ongoing presence on the University campus as regular operations support staff.</p>

<b>Statutes, Regulations, and Policies Governing or Necessitating This Policy</b>	Department of Administration Statewide Adverse Weather Policy (2019) University of Rhode Island Emergency Operations Plan
<b>Reason for Policy/Purpose</b>	To provide information regarding the operations of the University of Rhode Island relative to both state-issued weather Emergencies and University-declared closures.
<b>Forms Related to this Policy</b>	None

## Policy Statement

During adverse weather, natural disasters, or any other Emergencies, the State of Rhode Island or the University of Rhode Island may determine it is necessary to close or curtail operations.

### State Declared Adverse Weather Emergency

The Governor of the State of Rhode Island alone has the authority to determine whether or not there shall be a change in normal statewide business operations due to adverse weather conditions. In the event the Governor declares a State of Emergency relative to adverse weather, all University Employees shall follow the “Statewide Adverse Weather Policy” issued by the Department of Administration of the State of Rhode Island. This policy can be found on the Human Resources webpage.

### University Operations During an Emergency

The University of Rhode Island may curtail its operations due to a local, regional, or national Emergency. This curtailment of operations may affect the entire institution or may be localized geographically or programmatically at the University.

Only the URI President may declare an emergency curtailment of operations at the University (barring statewide closure), though in the absence of the President, this power shall rest with the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, and in the absence of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, this power shall rest with the Vice President for Administration and Finance. All actions relative to emergency curtailment of operations shall be made in consultation with the University Provost as well as leadership in the offices of Emergency Management, External Relations and Communications, Facilities Operations, Human Resources, Public Safety, and Student Affairs, with additional offices included as applicable.

Curtailment of operations specifically involving the Providence (including the Rhode Island Nursing Education Center), Narragansett Bay, or W. Alton Jones campuses shall be made in additional consultation with the primary leadership of those campuses.

The University may curtail operations due to an Emergency, including but not limited to the following actions:

- 1) **Classes are Cancelled:** Under this declaration, all University classes at all locations (unless specified otherwise) are cancelled; depending on the emergency, all online classes may continue to be held; all Employees are expected to report, unless told otherwise by their supervisor; and all University buildings are open (unless specified otherwise). Campus services are expected to run normally, though services may be reduced due to staffing shortages or other challenges associated with the Emergency.

2) Alternative Course Delivery. An alternative course delivery requirement may be established after the third calendar day of an Emergency that required the cancellation of classes. Under this declaration, classes are to be held as scheduled, except that an alternative delivery mode must be engaged (for example, synchronous or asynchronous remote teaching) because access to the University campus or infrastructure is limited.

In certain circumstances that require the continuation of an alternative course delivery mode longer than fifteen (15) calendar days, the decision to maintain this continued shift in program delivery must include consultation with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.

3) Cancellation of Campus Activities. The cancellation of classes includes the cancellation of campus activities occurring during the same period, unless otherwise specified by the official announcement. The University additionally may announce specifically the cancellation of all or certain campus activities due to an Emergency.

Student-athletes should refer to guidelines provided by the Department of Athletics regarding practices and games (on both weekdays and weekends).

4) A Sector / Unit of the University is Closed: Under this declaration, the operations of a specific campus, area, or unit of the University are curtailed. Classes or other programs or activities at that location or in the identified program are cancelled (unless noted otherwise in the announcement); buildings at that location or associated with the identified program may be closed. Employees whose workplace is the identified location or program should follow guidance from their supervisor regarding alternate work locations (including remote work, as appropriate).

### **Compensation**

If the University curtails operations such that Employees are prevented from performing their assigned duties, the University will continue compensation for the duration of the Emergency in accordance with applicable contracts, agreements, or grants. Compensation includes, but is not limited to, salaries, wages, and fringe benefits.

### **Expectations to Report**

If the University curtails operations due to an Emergency, the cancellation of classes for example, all Employees are expected to report to work as scheduled unless directed otherwise (for example due to the closure of a building or portion of the campus). Any Employee unable to report for regularly scheduled work or otherwise unable or unwilling to complete their assigned duties due to adverse weather conditions or the conditions of the Emergency may discharge, at the Employee's option, vacation leave, personal leave, or other appropriate administrative leave available to that Employee.

### **Essential Employees**

Certain Essential Employees deemed critical to the operations of the University are required to report to campus (or otherwise complete their assigned duties) during a period of curtailed operations. Essential Employees are identified in each department's or unit's Business Continuity Plan. Under certain circumstances, an Employee not identified as an Essential Employee may be required to report at the discretion of that person's supervisor, should the nature of the Emergency require their expertise.

### Remote Work

Remote work may be allowed during an Emergency. Permission for remote work during the course of an Emergency may be granted by the Employee's direct supervisor, provided that, if the Emergency continues beyond three (3) calendar days, the supervisor's approval must be in writing and for a specified period of time. Remote Work Agreements, per the University's policy on Remote Work, are not necessary under the conditions described in this policy.

### Communications

Only the Office of External Relations and Communications may announce the curtailment of operations to media sources. University students and Employees will be notified through the University's emergency alert system and through supplementary notices by the Office of External Relations and Communications. The University will also announce any University-wide change in operations (e.g., class cancellation) on the main University webpage. In instances where closure or curtailment is local to specific physical areas of the University (including entire campuses) or specific programs, the announcement may be made via internal University communications only and, as appropriate, only to affected students or Employees.

### Exceptions

This policy applies only to Emergency circumstances, not any other planned closures or curtailment of University operations (e.g., planned power outage, planned building closures, etc.).

Where the provisions of this policy conflict with a provision of a collective bargaining agreement, the specific provisions of the collective bargaining agreement shall prevail.

### Policy Review and Revisions

(Versions earlier than the first policy number may be paper only)

Policy #	Effective Date	Reason for Change	Changes to Policy
No #: Policy and Procedures for Snow Storms and Certain Emergencies	April 1989	Updated to new policy	Clarification regarding curtailments of operations
No #: Policy on Adverse Weather and/or Other Unusual Conditions	No Date	Update to new policy	Clarification regarding curtailments of operations
0.1.110.1	June 7, 2022	Policy review	Added specifications on curtailments, Presidential authority, remote work, communications, and compensation. This policy incorporates and supersedes the University policy on Compensation During an Emergency (02.112.1)