

## A STATE OF EMERGENCY

■ UNEMPLOYMENT SYSTEMS FACE FRAUD A14 ■ OBAMA CRITICIZES LEADERS ON PANDEMIC RESPONSE A15

### BACK TO WORK

## The old office will have a new and strange feel

By Tim Logan  
GLOBE STAFF

If you think working from home these last two months has been strange and unsettling, wait until you head back into the office.

Temperature checks. Long lines to get on the elevator. Desks cleared of personal items. One-way corridors and closed meeting rooms. And

lunch? Let's not even go there yet.

While many white-collar workers have been sequestered at home to help stop the spread of COVID-19, landlords and property managers, architects and safety experts have been trying to figure out how to make the office buildings that have been vacant for two months or

OFFICES, Page A10



ALLY RZESA FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

## Mass. virus toll runs counter to gender trend

More women here are dying of COVID-19

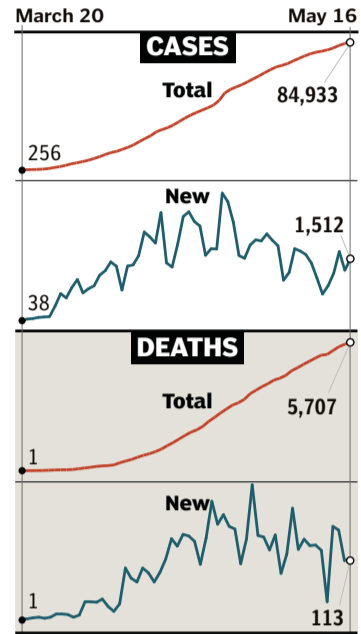
By Rebecca Ostriker  
GLOBE STAFF

Around the world, the death toll from COVID-19 has a stark gender divide: More men are dying with the coronavirus than women. In the United States, government data show men account for a significant majority of all deaths.

But Massachusetts is one of a handful of states that stand as exceptions: Here, women make up nearly 52 percent of all coronavirus-related deaths — a percentage that has steadily ticked up in recent weeks. And among the 10 states with the highest death tolls where COVID-19 fatalities by sex are publicly reported, Massachusetts women make up the biggest share of those who died.

Experts say behavior, biology, and societal factors may all play a part in national dispari-

### Coronavirus in Mass.



ties in coronavirus deaths between men and women — everything from hand-washing habits to hormones and exposure to infection in certain jobs. Understanding these factors better, they say, could have

WOMEN, Page A10

### VACATION



JOHN TLUMACKI/GLOBE STAFF

A jogger ran through a virtually empty Commercial Street in Provincetown last week.

## P-town tenses for summer surge

Tourist haven worries about becoming wrong kind of hot spot

By Christopher Muther  
GLOBE STAFF

Provincetown isn't a place known for social distancing.

People flock there from all over the country and the world to be a part of a summer-long party. It's one of the premiere LGBTQ tourist destinations in the United States, and it swells with music, parades, sweaty clubs, packed restaurants, and a central thoroughfare that can get so clogged with pedestrians, cyclists, and runners that it's diffi-



BRYAN BARBIERI/FILE 2019

Party-goers crowded together last year on the Fourth of July.

cult to stay 6 inches apart from others, let alone 6 feet.

That perfect holiday atmosphere, set along the pristine beaches of the Cape Cod National Seashore, has helped the town of 3,000 pull in more than \$200 million in tourism revenue annually. But what makes Provincetown so successful is also what makes it vulnerable to the coronavirus. That threat holds a special danger because the average age of residents is close to

PROVINCETOWN, Page A9

### SENIOR LIVING

## Nursing home was no match for disease

Illness arrived, spread quickly at Salem facility

By Laura Krantz,  
Laura Crimaldi,  
and Robert Weisman  
GLOBE STAFF

SALEM — Jonas Chaves dreaded asking the question. The proud onetime Swampscott fire department staffer, temporarily staying at the AdviniaCare at Salem nursing home for a course of intravenous antibiotics, ached to get home. But Chaves wanted to

know; he passed the time watching the news, a constant stream of pandemic talk. So on April 8, the 86-year-old finally asked an employee.

Does anyone here have the virus?

A few people, the staffer said, reassuring him: nobody on his floor.

"I was worried about him from the second he said that," said a friend, Rosilla Owen of Beverly, who spoke to Chaves on the phone later that day.

With astonishing speed, the virus razed AdviniaCare's plans to contain it, ripping through

NURSING HOME, Page A12

### Cloud based

Sunday: Dry but cloudy. High: 63-68. Low: 47-52.

Monday: Cloudy and wet. High: 53-58. Low: 44-49.

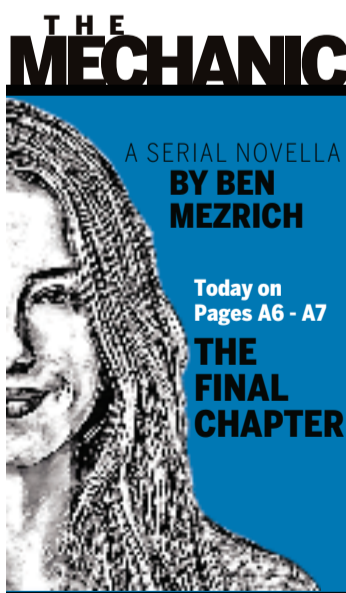
Sunrise: 5:20 Sunset: 8:01

Complete report, B16.

Deaths, C12-29.

VOL. 297, NO. 138

Suggested retail price \$6.00



### What happens to creativity during a pandemic?

Seven artists from the Boston area describe how they are staying productive. SundayArts, N1.

Columnist Dan Shaughnessy looks back on 32 years of sportswriting and notes some things he got wrong. Sports, C1.

## Friend and foe, a complex history: Biden weighs Warren for ticket

By Jess Bidgood  
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — The meeting drew attention around the nation's capital: then-Vice President Joe Biden had invited Senator Elizabeth Warren for a private lunch in 2015 at his official residence, where he jovially hinted about running for president with her by his side.

"If I have my way, you'll be living here," he said, as the Globe later reported.

Biden decided against launching a 2016 run for president, but the two remained in touch, according to two people familiar with their conversations, speaking by phone many times over a period in which Democrats battled among themselves and ultimately lost the White House to President Trump.

Warren and Biden didn't seem like natural allies then, and in some ways, they still don't, after two decades of shared history have left them frequent-

WARREN, Page A2



JONATHAN ERNST/REUTERS/FILE 2015

Joe Biden promised to pick a woman as a running mate.



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## A STATE OF EMERGENCY



PHOTOS BY JOHN TLUMACKI/GLOBE STAFF

Rob Anderson and Loic Rossignon, partners and co-owners of the Canteen restaurant, prepared a grocery delivery. A sign on Marine Street reflected the feeling of some in Provincetown.



# P-town tenses for the summer

## ►PROVINCETOWN

Continued from Page A1

60 and many are immuno-compromised.

Locals understand the risks, but tempers are flaring over how best to reopen the town, or if it should open to tourists at all. The most popular theme weeks and events (Women's Week, Family Week, Bear Week, the Provincetown Film Festival) have all been scrapped in an effort to curtail crowds, which balloon to 50,000 during the height of the season. Just last week, the town's biggest event, Carnival, was canceled by the Select Board, to the relief of many and the secret chagrin of others.

But the rest of the plan for how the summer will play out remains a question mark as the town waits for reopening guidelines from Governor Charlie Baker, in addition to suggestions from a local task force made up of Provincetown business owners, town officials, and medical advisers. As of May 14, there were 41 cases of COVID-19 reported in Provincetown.

"The balance is to figure out how you are going to be busy enough to stay economically viable but slow enough to maintain safety precautions," said Rob Anderson, who owns the Canteen restaurant with his partner, Loic Rossignon. "And nobody knows what that balance is. If we, as a town, don't decide and strictly enforce what it is we want to see, we could be left with a real health emergency."

Anderson has been offering his take on how the town should reopen in Facebook posts. He and other business owners are growing anxious as Memorial Day approaches and the town has yet to issue health and safety guidelines.

"When the governor eases restrictions, it means you'll have a lot of people from Boston saying, 'Let's take a drive to Provincetown,'" said Patrick Patrick, owner of Marine Specialties, a military surplus store and head of the town's Chamber of Commerce.

Anderson has already seen this happen. On a recent warm Saturday, a crowd of day trippers congregated outside the Canteen's pick-up window, some not practicing social dis-

tancing or wearing masks. He said several customers became belligerent when they were asked to follow safety protocols.

There is fear that some businesses will rush to open without a fully developed plan in place, hoping to make the most of Provincetown's short summer season. Given the risks, longtime resident Myra Slotnick has been vocal in her belief that Provincetown should be closed to tourists this summer.

"It is my position that minimizing the number of people who come here will minimize the transmission of the virus," Slotnick said in an e-mail. "I believe that only residents of Provincetown should be allowed to be here this season. Second-home owners, who are residents, make up 70 percent of the town. That is already a lot of people coming from all over the country. Key West has closed its doors to all but the locals, and so should we."

Weighing heavily on Slotnick and many others is the memory of the AIDS epidemic, which took a heavy toll on Provincet-

ments among year-round residents, those who own second homes say they are also feeling tension. Some said they faced hostility from locals when they left their city homes in March to escape to their Provincetown vacation homes. There was talk of slashed tires and fights, although most of the talk appears to be unsubstantiated, blustery claims on the town's contentious community Facebook page.

"I came here in March and was distressed by the us-versus-them, anti-second-home owner sentiment in some segments of the community," said one man who asked that his name not be used. "I initially got mad, but then decided a better response would be to prove myself a part of the community, so now I do grocery [runs] and run errands for the elderly."

The us-versus-them talk became so prevalent that Provincetown Select Board Chairman David Abramson issued a statement that the town was welcoming of second-home owners. But Abramson added that

tor and playwright Ryan Landry often refers to it as "Problemstown." A look at the bickering on the town's community Facebook page shows that Landry is only half-joking.

Last month, the town manager created the Provincetown Recovery Coalition to formulate a plan for reopening, with a broad range of interests represented on the board. Patrick, an eighth-generation Provincetown native who is a member of the coalition, said there has been pressure from businesses to offer a plan quickly, particularly with Memorial Day weekend approaching. But without guidelines from the state it's been a challenge.

"To some people it looks like the town's not doing anything," he said. "But, in fact, everyone is working overtime and planning for a number of eventualities. But you can't put out 10 different plans for 10 different eventualities and not expect people to get upset or confused."

About 80 percent of Provincetown businesses that responded to a survey from the Recovery Coalition said they plan to open this summer. The same percentage said they have a plan in place to communicate changes to customers.

Meanwhile, tourism is seemingly in a holding pattern. Provincetown is a place where people come year-after-year. Many book their accommodations long in advance to ensure they have a room during busy theme weeks. At least one hotel owner said many of his regulars have yet to cancel, but they are keeping close tabs on what's happening in town.

"A lot of people really love Provincetown, with or without Carnival and other big summer parties," said David Bowd, founder of the Salt House Inn. "I think everyone understands that it will be a little less frantic summer here, but we're not seeing a huge shift in anything right now. Everyone is waiting to see what happens, and keeping their fingers crossed for the best."

*Christopher Muther can be reached at christopher.muther@globe.com. Follow him on Twitter @Chris\_Muther.*

## NATIONAL RESPONSE

# US making precarious progress in its virus fight

By Julie Bosman, Amy Harmon, and Mitch Smith  
NEW YORK TIMES

The number of new coronavirus cases confirmed in the United States has steadily declined in recent days. In New York, the figure has dropped over the past month. The numbers have also plunged in hard-hit Massachusetts and Rhode Island, and some states, including Vermont, Hawaii, and Alaska, are reporting few new cases at all.

But that progress is tenuous and uncertain.

The nation has reached a perilous moment in the course of the epidemic, embracing signs of hope and beginning to reopen businesses and ease the very measures that slowed the virus, despite the risk of a resurgence. With more than two-thirds of states significantly relaxing restrictions on how Americans can move about over the last few weeks, an uptick in cases is widely predicted.

Months after the virus began spreading, only about 3 percent of the population has been tested for it, leaving its true scale and path unknown even as it continues to sicken and kill people at alarming rates. More than 20,000 new cases are identified on most days. And almost every day this past week, more than 1,000 Americans died from the virus.

Yet the mayor fears that his city's progress could be temporary. On Monday, the plant will begin slaughtering hogs again. Hundreds of employees will be back together at work.

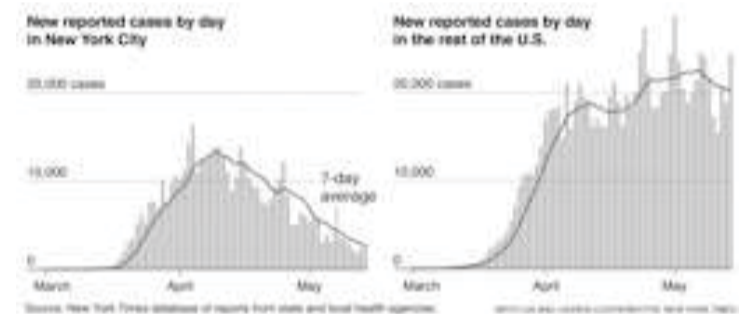
"I'll be honest, it makes me nervous," TenHaken said. "We've seen how a zero-case facility can become a 1,000-case facility."

Epidemiologists pointed to one overarching reason for the decline in new cases: the success of widespread social distancing.

Americans began to change their behavior in March, and it has undoubtedly helped control the spread of the coronavirus. Between mid-March, when public officials began to close schools and some workplaces, and late April, when the restrictions were lifted or eased in many states, 43.8 percent of the nation's residents stayed home, according to cellphone data analyzed by The Times.

The major clusters of cases that have arisen have been almost exclusively in three settings without effective social distancing: nursing homes, correctional facilities, and food-processing plants.

But in settings where distancing took place, the results have been overwhelming, researchers say. More than 70 percent of the US population lives in counties where coronavirus cases were reduced as a



"We're seeing a decline; undoubtedly, that is something good to see," Jeffrey Shaman, an epidemiologist at Columbia University, said. "But what we are also seeing is a lot of places right on the edge of controlling the disease."

The slowing of new cases is a stark change from two weeks ago, when coronavirus cases were stuck on a stubborn plateau nationally and case numbers were rising in many states. As of Friday, new cases were decreasing in 19 states and increasing in three, while staying mostly the same in the rest, according to a database maintained by The New York Times.

Encouraging signs have emerged in some of the hardest-hit places.

In New Orleans, where hundreds of new cases were being identified each day in early April, fewer than 50 have been announced daily in the last three weeks. In the Detroit area, which saw exponential case growth beginning in late March, numbers have fallen sharply. And in Cass County, Ind., where a meatpacking outbreak sickened at least 900 people, only a handful of cases have been reported most days this past week.

Even as many large cities saw their cases drop, increasing infections continue to be reported in parts of rural America. Some communities that have been fighting to get outbreaks under control finally appear to have succeeded, but have little idea how long it will last.

In Sioux Falls, S.D., where the virus sickened more than 1,000 people at a Smithfield pork processing plant, the outbreak appears to be slowing, Mayor Paul TenHaken said. More than 4,000 Smithfield employees, along with their family members and close contacts, were recently tested.

result of less time spent outside the home, according to one estimate by a research team led by economists at Yale University. Without government orders to stay at home, 10 million more people in the United States would have been infected with the virus by the end of April, suggested a paper published this past week in the journal Health Affairs.

"There's this disconnect of why it got better," said Mayor Thomas McNamara of Rockford, Ill., who has repeatedly stressed to his constituents that it is not yet time to relax the measures that contributed: "Social distancing, stay at home, wear your face covering."

The challenge has been convincing impatient Americans to continue taking precautions that will continue to slow the spread of the virus while a cure or vaccine remains far out of reach.

"I just received an e-mail from someone yesterday who said, 'I don't think people in our community are taking it seriously,'" said Kelly Chandler, the public health division manager for Itasca County, Minn., a lightly populated community with 42 cases of the coronavirus and six deaths.

Influxes of new cases were already turning up in some places that had seemed to tamp down earlier outbreaks.

In Arizona, which began reopening its economy without seeing a sustained drop in cases, infection numbers have continued to rise. More than 13,100 cases had been identified as of Friday. In Alabama, case numbers have grown since the state began to reopen its economy. And in Minnesota, cases around St. Cloud and Minneapolis have surged over the past two weeks, even as there were signs that the situation could be stabilizing.

# SundayTravel

WITH: NEW ENGLAND DESTINATIONS

BOSTON SUNDAY GLOBE MAY 17, 2020 | BOSTONGLOBE.COM/TRAVEL

N



## Rhode Island road trips

When you want to get out safely but start small

BY DIANE BAIR AND PAMELA WRIGHT  
GLOBE CORRESPONDENTS

Exploring close-to-home destinations from the comfort — and safety — of your own vehicle is looking like a mighty fine option right now. In fact, industry travel experts are predicting a resurgence of the American road trip, as travelers, eager to get out after the shelter-in-place pandemic, hit the road.

We're thinking Rhode Island, the smallest state in the country, is perfect for a Sunday drive (or any day of the week). It measures a mere 37 miles east to west; if you hopped on Interstate 95, you could drive the 48 miles north to south in less than an hour. But why rush? It's better to shunpike on one of these lovely road trips, offering plenty of eye candy and interesting sites along the way. You can stop, or stay in your car; either way, enjoy the ride! (Note: At the time of this writing Rhode Island had announced a phased in reopening of parks, beaches, restau-

rants, and other sites. Be sure to confirm details in advance, as things change frequently.)

**SOUTH COUNTY SOJOURN**  
[www.southcountyrri.com](http://www.southcountyrri.com)

Shoreline views, seaside towns, parks, preserves, and historic sites are highlights of this 33-mile or so drive, showing off the best of pretty South County. (Note: This ride is best when the state parks and beaches reopen, expected later this month.) Start in Wickford Village in North Kingstown, the real-life inspiration for the village of Eastwick in John Updike's 1984 novel, "The Witches of Eastwick," and the corresponding movie. North Kingstown is also home to the Gilbert Stuart Museum, set on 23 acres, with the artist's 1750 home, gardens, and trails ([www.gilbertstuartmuseum.org](http://www.gilbertstuartmuseum.org)). Follow Route 1A south toward Narragansett, considering stops at pris-

**RHODE ISLAND, Page N13**

The town beach in Little Compton, R.I., is a great place for a seaside walk.

## The life of a travel influencer when there's no travel

By Diti Kohli  
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

"Dream now, travel later."

This phrase has swept the travel industry as hotels, airlines, and agencies encourage people to plan vacations months in advance amid a global pandemic. The same sentiment also inspired Boston-based travel influencer Jon Miksis. A Wakefield native, Miksis, 26, has built a career around circling the globe and sharing his experience online. He writes trip itineraries on his blog and

shares photos and videos with followers.

Shelter-in-place orders have upended his adventures, including a trip he was going to take in April to Jordan and Qatar. But Miksis continues to upload while housebound with his wife.

"International travel restrictions were a tough pill to swallow for a lot of people," he said over video chat last week. "I can show people what's still out there and inspire them to keep dreaming and planning for the future while we are stuck in our homes."

**Influencer Jon Miksis during his traveling days.**

It's a delight for his 40,000 Instagram (@global.viewpoint) and 460,000 TikTok (@jonmiks) followers. A significant chunk of whom are based in and around New England, he said.

Miksis knows the hard truth: Travel, at least travel as he knew it, won't be back for a while. Yet most of the influencer's coronavirus-era content makes it look like little has changed. He traveled for 15 of the 52 weeks last year to countries including Germany, San Marino, and China. In isolation, he steadily

**MIKSIS, Page N14**



JON MIKSIS



PEDRO VILELA/GETTY IMAGES

By Kari Bodnarchuk  
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

The thought of sleeping in a hotel room — where countless people have stayed before you — may hold little appeal right now. But take heart: Whether you need to travel for essential reasons or are starting to plan for upcoming adventures, there are steps you can take — and questions you can ask — to help ensure safe and enjoyable hotel stays.

To prepare for the increase of travelers as restrictions ease, the American Hotel and Lodging Association has just introduced Safe Stay, a set of health and safety

## How to make sure your next hotel stay is a safe one

recommendations for hotels nationwide to help protect consumers and staff from coronavirus. The guidelines, based in part on recommendations from public health experts and the Centers for Disease Control, and Ecolab, which provides cleaning and disinfecting solutions and services for hotels, include best practices for guest interaction and recommendations on cleaning public spaces and communal areas, spacing out furniture in public areas, installing extra hand-sanitizer stations, and reducing in-person contact for room service and other hotel offerings.

**HOTELS, Page N14**

**Inside**  
**NETHERLANDS**  
**A GROWING TREND?**  
One Amsterdam restaurant built separate 'greenhouses' for safer outdoor dining  
**N12**



# The Concierge

TIPS FOR TOURING HERE AND ABROAD



## PANDEMIC DINING WITH PRIVATE 'GREENHOUSES'

ROBIN VAN LONKHUIJSEN/ANP/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

A server wearing a protective face shield arrives to serve wine to friends having dinner in their own greenhouse at ETEN restaurant in Amsterdam on May 5.

By Natalie B. Compton

THE WASHINGTON POST

Most of what we love about restaurants makes dining out problematic during the coronavirus pandemic. Sure, we love eating the food, but going to restaurants is just as much about experiencing the service, being out of your house and immersed in a communal atmosphere.

Most restaurants have closed their normal dine-in operations to stop the spread of COVID-19. Then there's Amsterdam, where one restaurant is thinking outside the box by putting patrons into boxes. Or rather, "greenhouses."

Serres Séparées, French for "separate greenhouses," is a project from the ETEN restaurant at Amsterdam's Mediamatic arts center that hosts diners in individual glass enclosures.

"At Mediamatic we're designing and testing new safe hospitality," the art center wrote on its website. "Later this year we will serve our

visitors amazing plant-based dinners in their own little greenhouse."

On April 27 and May 5, Serres Séparées ran soft openings, welcoming test diners into its five greenhouses set up along the Oosterdok marina.

Serres Séparées staff wore plastic shields over their faces and black gloves as they served restaurant guests their plant-based meals on long wooden planks.

"We are now learning how to do the cleaning, how to do the service, how to get the empty plates out again in an elegant way, so you still feel taken care of nicely," Mediamatic's Willem Velthoven told Reuters.

It's unlikely that all restaurants will adopt Mediamatic's unique approach to post-pandemic dining, but they're not alone in the effort to reshape the future of the hospitality industry.

Hotels and vacation rentals are retooling sanitation efforts, from changing check-in procedures to investing in new disinfecting technology. Airlines are looking to change the anatomy of planes.



Food is served on long wooden planks to minimize contact for servers and diners.

## HERE

### REDEFINING NEWPORT, R.I.

A new kind of Newport hotel is scheduled to make its soft debut in late May. Say goodbye to stuffy, gilded (and expensive) accommodations and say hello to The Wayfinder Hotel's contemporary take on coastal style. Created by a group of local chefs, bartenders, artists, designers, and entrepreneurs who want to redefine the Newport experience, the hotel is a leading development in the city's North End. Visitors can enjoy 197 spacious rooms stocked with regionally focused amenities such as locally made snacks, crafted soap bath products from Shore Soap, and luxury linens by Matouk. Several grand opening deals are available. You can buy now and stay later with the "Travel Is a Gift" offer. Call the hotel to purchase a gift card of \$100 or more, and receive upgrade upon arrival, locally sourced surprise amenity, and 25 percent off one meal at the hotel's Nomni Park, a full-service, all-day eatery, serving a medley of classic bites and refined cuisine. Rates from \$199. 401-849-9880, [www.thewayfinderhotel.com](http://www.thewayfinderhotel.com)

## THERE

### "BONDS" BENEFIT HOTEL INDUSTRY AND TRAVELERS

A new initiative, Buy Now, Stay Later, encourages travelers to help support those working in the hotel industry, such as housekeepers, hosts, bartenders, concierges and everyone in between. How it works: Simply purchase a \$100 hotel "bond" today at one of the participating hotels. After a 60-day



maturity period, the bond will be valued at \$150. Consumers can purchase multiple bonds for each hotel, meaning \$500 would be worth \$750 in 60 days. (Check with each hotel for purchase limits.) Once hotels are ready for booking, you can schedule a stay at a later date. All bookings go directly to each hotel. (No money passes through the linking website.) Almost 300 properties across the world are participating, including Eastwind Hotel & Bar in the Catskills; Casa Violeta in Tulum, Mexico; LondonHouse in Chicago; Yamaya Buckhorn in California; Jade Mountain and Anse Chastanet resorts in Saint Lucia; Hotel Providence in Paris; and many more. Consumers can purchase bonds through Aug. 31. [buynowstaylater.com](http://buynowstaylater.com)

### BERLIN CULTURE CAPTURED

So, you've finished all three seasons of "Babylo Berlin" on Netflix. Now what? A currently streaming range of Berlin's cultural experiences should satisfy your craving to visit this vibrant destination. The Berlin Philhar-



monic is offering classical music fans a number of free performances via its Digital Concert Hall ([www.digitalconcerthall.com/en/home](http://www.digitalconcerthall.com/en/home)). Continue enjoying culture from your couch with Visit Berlin's stream from theaters and stages ([www.visitberlin.de/en/blog/berlin-stages-continue-playing-online](http://www.visitberlin.de/en/blog/berlin-stages-continue-playing-online)). For a social city known for its nightlife, the shutdown of club culture might seem a tough challenge. But no worries: United We Stream beams a digital club right to your home, including live DJ sets, music, and performances ([en.unitedwestream.berlin](http://en.unitedwestream.berlin)). Fans of art and architecture can virtu-

ally explore 35 rooms of The Bode Museum, one of Berlin's top tourism sites. Seamlessly stitching together 62 photographs, each providing a 360-degree panorama, the museum tour captures nearly the entire ground floor and a great deal of the first floor, and provides information on 850 sculptures and paintings, and more than 300 links to SMB-digital, the online database of the national Museums Berlin ([bode360.smb.museum](http://bode360.smb.museum)).

## EVERYWHERE

### STAYING SAFE IN THE SUNSHINE

As the weather warms and you get outside for (socially distant) hiking, biking and other healthy exercise, don't forget the sun's strength and that the UV index in May is similar to that in August. Bü performance sunscreens (inspired by the beaches in Malibu) feature a convenient micro-spray "WOWmist" applicator designed to apply a smooth and invisible layer of broad-spectrum UVA/UVB sun protection. No-touch application makes it convenient to use; just spray and dry. Hypoallergenic and non-comedogenic with antioxidant Vitamin E. Irritants such as fragrance, oil, alcohol, PABA and preservatives have been eliminated, making it fine for use on sensitive skin and for kids. From \$9. [www.busunscreens.com](http://www.busunscreens.com)

### COZY BLANKETS MAP YOUR TRAVEL DREAMS

ChappyWrap, a mother-daughter owned New Eng-



land-based blanket company, offers cozy ways to snuggle on the couch while dreaming about your favorite destinations. In the "Places Collection," plush cotton-blend blankets feature maps of treasured vacation spots such as Maine, the Cape and Islands, Long Island Sound, Chesapeake Bay, and more. To ensure long-lasting softness, each blanket is produced by a detailed weaving process on a Jacquard loom. Additional collections pay homage to their New England roots with appropriately themed names including Brant Point Blues, Long Wharf Herringbone Navy, and Lobster Shack. And, once we're traveling again, they're perfect for picnics, beaches, camping, and more. Available in three sizes: Original (60 inches by 80 inches); Midi (40 inches by 60 inches); and Mini (30 inches by 40 inches). \$55-\$135. [chappywrap.com/collections/the-places-collection](http://chappywrap.com/collections/the-places-collection)

NECEE REGIS

THE VIP LOUNGE | ADAM EZRA

# Tour canceled, he's still gathering new fans online

Folk singer Adam Ezra was in the middle of a tour with his band when the coronavirus pandemic hit. While he was disappointed to cut short the tour, he has found a new, international fan base through his “Gathering Series,” live-streaming shows he began performing nightly from his home in Chelsea or, more recently, from his cabin at Joshua Tree in California’s Mojave Desert. “This has been an inspiring journey,” said Ezra, 43, who contracted the coronavirus and has since almost completely recovered. “Since the tour was canceled, my reach as an artist has been magnified.” Much to his surprise, Ezra recently learned that he has a large fan base in Brazil. “How cool is that?” he asked. Born in Corning, N.Y., and raised in Wayland, Ezra lives in Chelsea with his fiancée, Alley Welsh, a cancer biologist and artist. We caught up with Ezra — whose show streams each night at 7 on [adamezra.com](http://adamezra.com) or on the Adam Ezra page on Facebook — to talk about all things travel, a conversation in which he broke down his answers to BC (before coronavirus) and AC (after coronavirus).

## Favorite vacation destination?

BC: Joshua Tree, Calif. My fiancée, Alley, and I just bought a tiny little cabin in a pile of boulders out in that desert. We think it is the most beautiful place on Earth and are constantly inspired by the incredible community out there, filled with artists, activists, and misfits — just like us!

AC: Since the virus hit, I have had to get creative with my definition of travel and vacation. I would usually be touring the country playing music right now, but in mid-March we canceled everything, and I began something we call “The Gathering Series” online. Every night at 7 I go live. I play some music, but mostly use the time as a platform to connect my friends and listeners, many of whom are almost as active on the comment board as I am on the guitar. I feel so scared and isolated during this time, and every night the Gatherings not only help me feel less alone, but also remind me that we are still living in a global community that supports and believes in one another. This feels like a daily vacation destination more so than any physical place to which I’ve ever traveled.

## Favorite food or drink while vacationing?

BC: Irish whiskey.  
AC: a) See first answer; b) Two weeks ago I contracted COVID. I never had to go to the hospital, and I am doing great now, but for a while I was pretty sick. I lost my sense of smell — and taste . . . very weird — and since then I have been drinking seltzer like a crazy person. I can’t get enough. The bubbles feel nice, and it’s the only sensation my mouth and body really get. I’m looking forward to feeling 100 percent healthy again and graduating back to answer “a.”



ADAM EZRA

## Where would you like to travel to but haven't?

BC: India. Of any place on Earth, the culture throughout this beautiful country seems so exotic and fascinating to me. I would love to travel there for a while and immerse in some of the cities and countryside . . . meet a thousand people . . . eat a thousand meals . . . listen to a thousand local songs.

AC: Since this chapter of isolationism began, I have become obsessed with data analytics (funny place to start this answer, right?). Because I can’t see my audiences each night, I often travel into my statistics to learn what I can about who’s out there listening. I found out the most incredible thing the other day: Four out of five of my most actively listening cities are in Brazil! How cool is that? This country, in which I have never toured, has somehow decided to begin listening to this relatively unknown folk singer from another hemisphere. Brazil suddenly seems like a place I would love to visit.

## One item you can't leave home without when traveling?

BC: My guitar.  
AC: My face mask.

## Aisle or window?

BC: Window. As often as I fly, I am still fascinated by the way our world looks from the sky.

## Adam Ezra and his fiancée, Alley Welsh, in California's Mojave desert.

Oh yeah, and I totally use that wall for napping.

AC: Dude, flying is so 2019.

## Favorite childhood travel memory?

BC: For some number of years, before my folks divorced, they would rent a place for two weeks in Orleans, on Cape Cod. My favorites were Nauset Beach, Pilgrim Lake, mini golf at Katie’s, cones at Sundae School . . . but most importantly, family [being] together — during a time when Cape Cod had less traffic and sharks.

AC: Now that I am corona-free, and because Alley and I are both working remotely, we are planning to hop in my mini tour bus and drive out to our cabin in the desert, almost 3,000 miles away. As we’ve been planning our trip, I’ve been reminiscing about a summer, when I was 13, in which my folks rented an RV (we named him Harvey) and we did the whole Grand Canyon-Yellowstone thing. It was my first time experiencing a landscape so utterly different than the New England countryside in which I felt so at home. It was the very beginning of a lifelong appreciation for and dedication to protecting the incredible natural resources we have throughout our country.

## Guilty pleasure when traveling?

BC: This is more from being on tour than traveling for vacation, but every once in a while, when I find myself in a not-so-crappy hotel with really nice water pressure, I allow myself an unethically long shower. My lord, I’m not sure there are many simple pleasures that beat a really nice shower; but more so than the shower itself, time away from screens, and schedules, and humans — even the nice ones — to simply process the day, the place I’m at, and the way the world feels as it’s spinning. I think I can safely tell you that most of my songs, during some phase of their creation, were worked on in the shower.

AC: See answer “a” to “Favorite food or drink while vacationing?”

## Best travel tip?

BC: I am no travel expert, at least not compared to most of your interviewees. Most of my adult life has been spent scraping my way across the country as a relatively unsuccessful independent artist on tour. I’m also kind of a no-frills guy. Show me the bars and cafes where the truckers and farmers hang, and that’s where I want to be. I have developed a tradition in my travels that I really love, though, and I’d like to share it with you: When I can, I take a walk or a run. This in itself is obviously neither groundbreaking nor interesting. The catch is that I specifically try to walk or run in a place where travelers don’t usually go. I like to look at the different homes . . . the yards, the local trees and plants that none of the residents necessarily consider special but are so different from what I experience when I’m out around Boston. I like to imagine the lives that are being lived in whatever remarkable or unremarkable place I find myself, and I think about the stories inside all of those walls and along all of those streets. Whatever follows this adventure during the course of my day, I find myself facing it with a mind that feels a little more open and a heart that feels a little more full.

AC: There is an incredible thing that has begun happening around the world since this mess began. Artists of all sizes and from every genre have begun sharing their music live online. On any given night, if you snoop around a bit, you can find concerts *everywhere*. You don’t have to move off your couch to discover a new songwriter or artist who may touch and inspire you. For me, listening to and experiencing art is one of the most powerful ways for me to process my thoughts and feelings during my most difficult times. Don’t feel guilty if times are tough for you and you can’t afford to tip the artist through whatever digital money transfer system they have set up. Just enjoy, and if you find yourself becoming a fan of someone new, share that artist’s music with people you care about, and plan to go see a show when this is all over.

JULIET PENNINGTON

# Road trips to Little Rhody

►RHODE ISLAND  
Continued from Page N11

tine and protected Moonstone Beach or East Matunuck State Beach, with swimming and picnic areas.

In Narragansett, take a detour on Ocean Drive, past beautiful mansions, down to the historic 1816 Point Judith Lighthouse, where you’ll have sweeping Atlantic Ocean views. Work your way back to Route 1, heading south to Charlestown, with a string of beaches, including woodsy Burlingame State Park and Campground, with a freshwater pond and canoe rentals, the Charlestown Breachway, located on Block Island Sound, and East Beach, with limited parking but a nice, quiet spot for a beach walk.

Reconnect with Route 1A and take a short jog to Weekapaug, where you’ll have views of saltmarshes leading to open ocean. Consider stopping at the Weekapaug Inn, where you can enjoy a beverage outdoors on the expansive lawn overlooking the water ([www.weekapaug-inn.com](http://www.weekapaug-inn.com)).

Continue on Route 1A into the small town of Watch Hill, named when soldiers perched here to watch for British raiders during the Revolution. The summer resort town is filled with solid old Victorian homes and stately mansions (Taylor Swift has a summer home here); its small downtown has a cluster of shops and restaurants, and the Flying Horse Carousel, the oldest continuously operating merry-go-round carousel in the country, with hand-carved, hand-painted horses.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF VISIT RHODE ISLAND

At Sakonnet Point (above), you’ll have a view of the picturesque Sakonnet Light, a sparkplug lighthouse built in 1884. At the Buck Hill Management Area in Burrillville, R.I., several trails lead through woods to a pristine pond.

ruecker-wildlife-refuge.html), with 50 acres of preserved woods and saltmarshes and 1.6 miles of trails, including Jack’s Island Trail that leads to a peninsula jutting out into the river.

Your next stop is Tiverton Four Corners, a historic 18th-century village filled with one-of-a-kind shops and galleries. Grab snacks and picnic makings at Provender Fine Foods ([www.provenderfinefoods.com](http://www.provenderfinefoods.com)) or takeout at Evelyn’s Drive-in, a longstanding and popular waterside clam shack ([www.evelyns-drivein.com](http://www.evelyns-drivein.com)). A stop at Gray’s is also an option, for a scoop or two of their famous homemade ice cream ([sicecream.com\).](http://www.gray-</a></p>
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Continue into Little Compton, a peaceful little town with a handful of shops, a historic general store, and a small beach. Stop by Carolyn’s Sakonnet Vineyards ([www.sakonnetwine.com](http://www.sakonnetwine.com)), with 150 acres of land, a tasting room, and outdoor seating, before making your way to Sakonnet Point, with open ocean views and the picturesque Sakonnet Light, a sparkplug lighthouse built in 1884.

**A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT**  
[www.tourblackstone.com](http://www.tourblackstone.com)

The Blackstone River Valley in northern Rhode Island, dubbed the Birthplace of the American Industrial Revolution, was once clogged with textile mills, powered by the Blackstone River. Today, you’ll find historic sites, small towns, and river views on this short, 12-mile or so country drive.

Begin in North Smithfield, home to the Slatersville Historic District, a Blackstone River Valley National Historic Park site ([www.nps.gov/blrv/planyourvisit/slatersville-self-guided-tour.htm](http://www.nps.gov/blrv/planyourvisit/slatersville-self-guided-tour.htm)). This pretty little riverside neighborhood was the first planned mill village in the country. Download a self-guided map from the park website, which will direct you to a number of historic buildings and sites, including a massive mill

complex lining the Branch River, dams, a reservoir, and two waterfalls.

From here, follow Route 102 through Burrillville, where you can stretch your legs at the Buck Hill Management Area ([www.tourblackstone.com/buck-hill-management-area-trail](http://www.tourblackstone.com/buck-hill-management-area-trail)); there are several trails leading through the woods and to a pristine pond. Continue on to historic Chepachet Village, a tiny riverside town with a few shops, and Brown & Hopkins, the oldest continuously-operated country store in America ([www.browndanhopkins.com](http://www.browndanhopkins.com)).

You can continue south on Route 102, past woods, fields, ponds, farms, homes, small towns, and not much else, before reaching I-95. Or, head toward Providence, with a detour to Lincoln, where you can drive down the Great Road, the state’s oldest highway dating back to 1683. The Lincoln Woods State Park ([www.ri-parks.com/Locations/Location-LincolnWoods.html](http://www.ri-parks.com/Locations/Location-LincolnWoods.html)) has a scenic 2.5-mile loop hike, and a small beach on Olney Pond, and the Blackstone River State Park, also in Lincoln, is set along the Blackstone River, with walking and biking paths ([www.ri-parks.com/Locations/Location-BlackstoneBikeVisit.html](http://www.ri-parks.com/Locations/Location-BlackstoneBikeVisit.html)).

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We’d recommend a final stop at the sprawling Ocean House resort, where you can take a DIY art tour; the hotel displays more than 250 original works. Or simply grab drinks on the porch overlooking the ocean ([www.oceanhouseri.com](http://www.oceanhouseri.com)).

## COUNTRY COASTAL CHIC

This 12-mile jaunt from Tiverton to Sakonnet Point

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# Travel influencer sees more trips to lesser-known sites

►MIKSIS  
Continued from Page N11

pulls images from these trips and publishes them on Instagram. The captions include tidbits of history and his memories of a day spent there. Once in a while, he throws in a scenic video.

“Dreaming back to this emerald alpine lake in Central Austria,” he wrote under a recent post, an idyllic image of Grüner See. “It’s so crazy that it was basically unknown and untouched until Ashton Kutcher posted it on his Facebook page in 2014.”

On TikTok, Miksis has adapted to the norms of the app, a newer video-based platform where users often place words on top of clips and insert music or narration behind them. There, he highlights individual destinations such as Iceland or Nepal. Sometimes, he compiles lists — coolest country nicknames, most powerful passports, and most colorful cities, for example.

Newer posts talk about the importance of travel insurance in 2020 and ways to cure wanderlust.

The continued stream of content has received a mix of reactions from Miksis’s now-confined following. His comment sections are inundated with people wistfully fantasizing about the faraway locales. One user called his own home “a cage”; another wished to “fly” and “walk in the garden” of the small Slovenian church included in a post.

A few, well-meaning people have sprinkled his replies with warnings not to travel. “I have made it a point to emphasize how I’m not traveling right now in my captions,” Miksis said. “They don’t always catch that.”

In a poll he shared on Instagram in March, followers aired their own woes. “My daughter was supposed to come visit me next month, but now she won’t be able to,” wrote one user.

Unlike Miksis, some travel influencers have disappeared from the public eye in recent months, in part because the advertisements and sponsorships that support them are now in short supply. Others simply feel odd posting images of themselves trekking through countries devastated by the crisis.

Utah-based @expertvagabond, for example, has not posted regularly since March 15, when he stopped traveling. Matt Kartsten’s last international post was of Burano, Italy, which later saw a surge in coronavirus cases. When will his normal stream of con-

tent return? No one knows.

“A lot of people feel awkward about posting pictures at a time like this,” said Miksis. “It’s unfortunate they’re not creating the content that they used to, but I get it.”

The shock to the travel industry is personal for Miksis, whose mother is a travel agent. After all, passenger traffic on US airlines has plummeted 95 percent compared to last year, and 100 million workers in the travel and tourism sector have been terminated or will be. Select hotels have desperately tried to stay afloat by introducing discounted “bonds” that visitors can use in the future. And the pay-when-you-book vacation model is gaining traction — though it’s not enough to resurrect the industry.

Miksis has stayed hard at work to keep himself afloat. He gets up early and stays up late. And he is expanding his presence on platforms such as YouTube and Pinterest, all while inventing novel ways to keep his audience engaged from the four walls of his home.

Really, the job is a meticulous effort in planning, filming, and organizing, he said.

“Everyone thinks my job is about being on a beach with a cocktail in my hand all the time,” he explained. “Which it is sometimes. But really, I’m a trusted travel adviser going around for as long as possible for as little money as possible.”

He is scoping out the possibility of traveling late in the year while keeping a close eye on the government’s safety guidelines, of course.

From his perspective, there could be one positive to come out of all of this: a shift to more sustainable travel. He hopes that, in an effort to prolong some form of social distancing, over-tourism will dwindle. Maybe vacationers will avoid spots known for attracting massive crowds — the Taj Mahal, the Eiffel Tower, and the Colosseum, for example — in favor of smaller destinations?

“I’m a hidden gem kind of person,” he said. “This kind of travel will go up after quarantine — at least it should.”

He believes that domestic road trips will be the first kind of travel to make a comeback.

“I could use a road trip after this,” he said. “But couldn’t we all?”

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JON MIKSIS

Fjaðrárgljúfur Canyon in Iceland.

# Take steps to minimize risks during next hotel stay

►HOTELS  
Continued from Page N11

Based on these guidelines and recommendations from health and travel experts, here are some tips to consider before booking your next hotel stay.

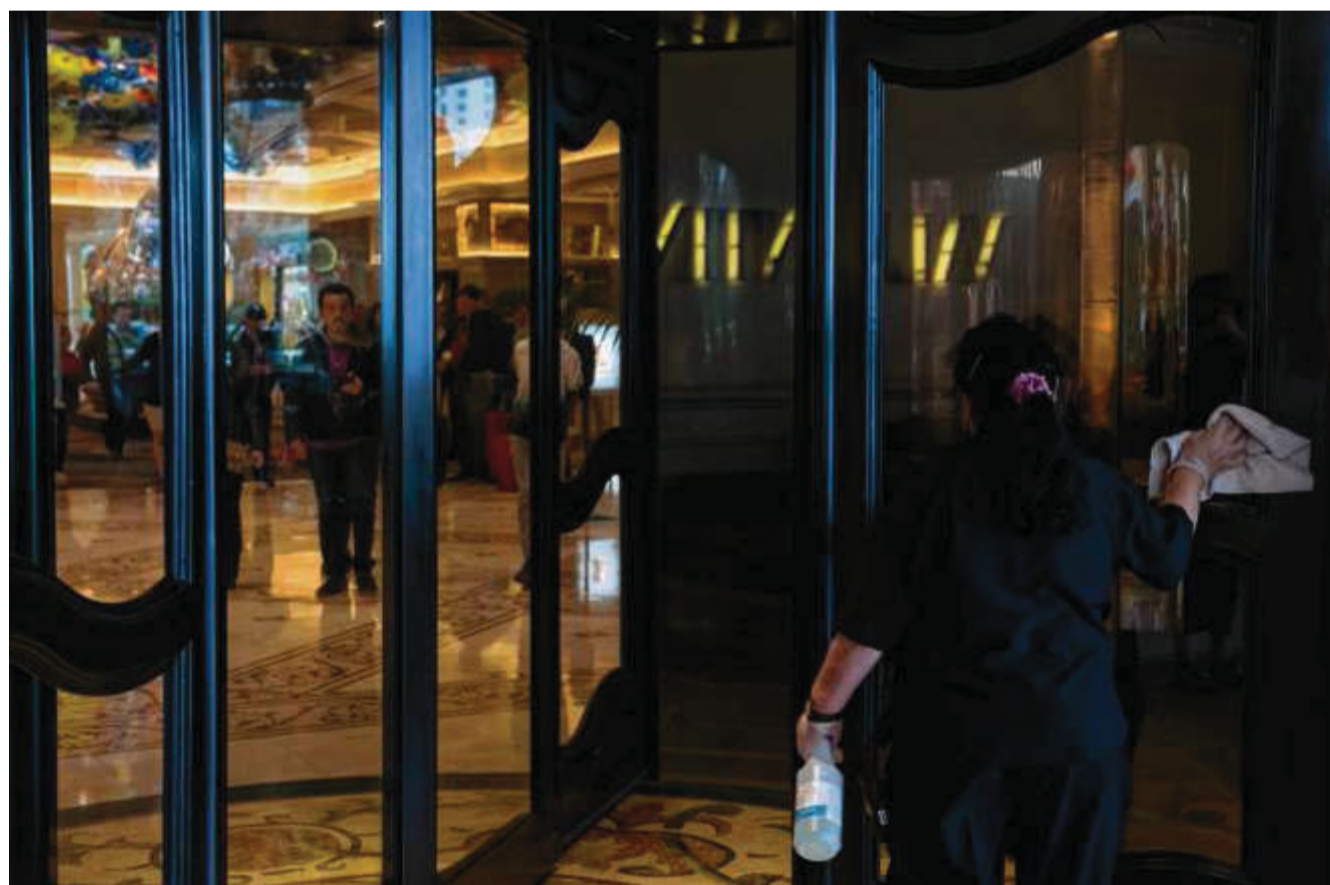
## Ask questions and do some research

Whether you book a room through the hotel or a third-party site, call the hotel first to find out what it has done to make the space as safe as possible. For starters, does the hotel offer contactless check-in or other options? Many hotels now offer virtual check-ins (you can use your phone to check in and even access your room) and virtual concierges that can provide information and services, or they have installed plexiglass screens at check-in desks for the protection of guests and hotel workers. Has the hotel incorporated safe-distancing practices in lobbies and common areas — spacing out furniture, adding six-foot markers in areas where queuing becomes necessary, and encouraging designated one-way flow at entrances and exits to keep guests distanced?

Ask if the hotel has incorporated extra cleaning protocols to disinfect high-touch surfaces around the property and in guestrooms. Many major hotels, such as the Marriott, Hilton, Hyatt, InterContinental Hotels Group, and Accor, now use electrostatic sprayers with hospital-quality disinfectant to sanitize guestrooms and public spaces.

Find out if the hotel limits the number of people in an elevator or has incorporated one-way stairwells to help keep guests separated, so you can be informed before you arrive. If you need valet service, because of mobility or other issues, ask if the hotel has protocols in place for disinfecting contact points in your vehicle.

Many hotels now take rooms out of commission for a night or two between guest stays, as an extra precaution — make sure you ask.



BRIDGET BENNETT/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES/FILE

A worker cleaned at the entrance of the Bellagio Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas on March 13.

## Consider which services you need

Decide what’s important to you during your hotel stay. Do you prefer a hotel that offers in-room workouts (some hotels provide a Peloton bike and other gym equipment in guestrooms, or offer yoga and Pilates workouts via the in-room television); dining options (many hotels offer contactless room service, while some have reopened restaurants but limit the number of patrons); or access to a pool?

“The biggest question we are seeing at the moment is, ‘Is the pool open?’”

says Vanessa Snider, founder of The Luxury Service, a Los Angeles-based travel agency. “Some properties with open pools have redesigned their guest seating to allow for safe social distancing. Other properties have elected to keep their pools closed but are allowing guests to lounge around.”

Adds Anthony Berklich, a New York-based travel consultant, “Rooms might become more like self-contained hubs for food, entertainment, and fitness to minimize exposure to other guests for the time being.”

With such a range of services offered — or not — it pays to ask for discounted rates at hotels that have limited their guest amenities.

## What to do upon arrival

Assess the situation when you arrive: If you step into the lobby and notice lounge furniture still clustered together, no plexiglass barriers or face masks separating you and staff at check-in, little presence of social distancing reminders or notices about upgraded cleaning standards, or a lack of hand sanitizer stations, rethink your stay.

“When checking in to the property, if things look haphazard or not in line with proper sanitization, it’s best to assume they are sloppy and aren’t taking precautions,” says Berklich, who founded the travel platform Inspired Citizen and logs more than 200,000 miles of travel a year. “Check out and request a refund, or speak up to have them modify things — to your comfort

(level) and to the guidelines that we’ve all learned over the past months about hygiene.”

Like the days of old, when airlines offered passengers flight kits, some hotels now provide amenity kits, such as Santa Fe’s La Fonda on the Plaza, which provides guests with sanitizing wipes, disposable slippers, and hand sanitizer. (The Inns of Aurora in New York’s Finger Lakes region also offers guests comfort amenities such as Yoga cards for personal practice, Bombas socks, and tea from its signature blend.)

Regardless of what cleaning practices a hotel employs, it’s best to travel with your own small disinfectant kit with “bleach wipes, mini cans of Lysol spray, and latex gloves,” says Berklich, and use these to disinfect high-touch surfaces in your guestroom, such as doorknobs, light switches, the phone, the remote control, and other surfaces.

Also remove any decorative pillows and quilts, which may not be frequently cleaned, and consider traveling with an old sheet that you can throw over a fabric chair or sofa (with a plastic bag to put it in for the trip home). Berklich recommends traveling with “your own inexpensive pillowcases that can be disposed of when leaving the hotel.”

For peace of mind, consider traveling with your own reusable drinking or coffee cup — or at the very least, give the one in your room a good wash in hot water before using. While these may seem like extreme measures, you can never be too careful and there is no guarantee what you will find from one hotel to the next.

Finally, make sure you read the fine print before booking your upcoming hotel stays.

“Cancellation policies have also never been more flexible, so make sure to find out about these before making any final bookings,” says Snider.

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