COVID-19
PreK-12 Symptoms Provider Handbook

SEPTEMBER 25, 2020
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Introduction

This PreK-12 Handbook is meant to serve as a resource for all PreK-12 public and non-public educators and Local Education Agencies (LEA). It lays out a roadmap for what to expect from the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) and what RIDOH expects from schools in different scenarios. We know that cases of COVID-19 will occur in schools. Our goal is to be as prepared as possible when that happens, and these materials are a piece of that preparation. This is not intended to be an all-inclusive list, but more a guide that is specific to case investigation and contact tracing. It complements other resources listed in Appendix 1 and will be updated and supplemented with additional information in the coming weeks and months.

Terms and Definitions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Probable Case</td>
<td>At least one of the following symptoms:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Cough (new)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• New olfactory and taste disorder(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>At least two of the following symptoms:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Fever</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Chills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Muscle or body aches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Headache</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Sore throat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Fatigue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Congestion or runny nose (new)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Nausea or vomiting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Diarrhea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incubation Period</td>
<td>The period between exposure to an infection and the appearance of the first symptoms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• For COVID-19 the incubation period is up to 14 days post-exposure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Range is from 2-14 days, with a median time of 4-5 days from exposure to symptoms onset.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infectious Period</td>
<td>For symptomatic cases: Two days before illness onset and until 10 days after symptoms start</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>For asymptomatic cases: Two days prior to specimen collection and until 10 days after specimen collection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isolation</td>
<td>Isolation is used to separate people infected with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, from people who are not infected.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quarantine</td>
<td>Quarantine separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Anyone who has been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 must stay home for 14 days after last contact with a person who has COVID-19 and watch for symptoms of COVID-19.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Close Contact | Being within six feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes  
|               | Having unprotected, direct contact with secretions or excretions of  
|               | a person with confirmed COVID-19 during the infections period  
|               | Irrespective of use of cloth face coverings (non-healthcare  
|               | workers)  
|               | For healthcare worker (HCW) exposure at work, perform risk  
|               | assessment per Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance |
Identifying Probable Cases

COVID-19 Symptoms

- Cough (new)
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fever
- Chills
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Fatigue
- Congestion or runny nose (new)
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Probable Case Definition

At least one of the following symptoms:

- Cough (new)
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- New olfactory and taste disorder(s)

OR

At least two of the following symptoms:

- Fever
- Chills
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Fatigue
- Congestion or runny nose (new)
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

A COVID-19 diagnostic test is required for all probable cases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symptoms</th>
<th>Is COVID-19 diagnostic test required?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cough (new)</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New loss of taste</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New loss of smell</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fever (temperature higher than 100.4°F or feels feverish to the touch)</td>
<td>YES, if two or more of these symptoms are present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chills</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muscle or body aches</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Headache</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sore throat</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fatigue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congestion or runny nose (new)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nausea or vomiting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diarrhea</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*If the PCR (non-rapid) test result is negative, the person can return to school when they have been fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and symptoms have improved (back to usual health). If the test result is positive, the person must isolate and can return to school when CDC/RIDOH symptom-based criteria for ending isolation have been met. The test-based strategy for ending isolation is not recommended. After a person is diagnosed with COVID-19 by a positive test, additional tests are not necessary or recommended and are strongly discouraged.
Probable Portal

The Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) Probable Case Reporting Portal has been developed for use by Rhode Island public and non-public schools so that RIDOH can monitor probable cases as they arise among the PK-12 student population.

When a student (whether at school, learning remotely, or absent) presents with, or reports a symptom or set of symptoms meeting the CDC definition of a probable case of COVID-19 (as defined in the PK-12 Toolkit and below), the school should report the probable case via the Probable Case Reporting Portal. At this time, the portal is for student probable cases, not staff probable cases.

RIDOH will monitor the data in the portal to identify trends in schools and municipalities and guide the overall needs for K-12 testing capacity.

In general, RIDOH will not begin the case investigation process or contact the school until there is a positive test result. Individuals reported through the Probable Case Reporting Portal will not receive outreach from RIDOH unless they test positive for COVID-19. Communication with schools is an integral part of the case investigation process. With that in mind, the school’s identified primary contact will be notified when RIDOH receives information that an individual associated with that particular school has tested positive for COVID-19. If the primary contact cannot be reached, the backup will be notified. A brief summary of what schools should do when a child or staff member is symptomatic and what happens next is available [here](#). If you need to update your primary and backup contacts, please email [info@ride.ri.gov](mailto:info@ride.ri.gov).

RIDOH recommends that each school designate one probable portal user. This user can be anyone the school deems most appropriate (e.g. nurse or administrator), but the expectation is that this user will have knowledge of the student’s symptoms and have the capacity to enter cases into the Probable Case Reporting Portal.

In order to request an account or if you have any difficulties with account creation, please contact [RIDOH.COVIDK12Support@health.ri.gov](mailto:RIDOH.COVIDK12Support@health.ri.gov) and indicate “School Portal” in the subject line. Include your first name, last name, school name, and phone number.

For additional information about the Probable Case Reporting Portal, please refer to the Probable Case Reporting Portal training webinar, which can be found here: [https://health.ri.gov/diseases/ncov2019/for/providers/video/Nurse-Demo-200911.mp4](https://health.ri.gov/diseases/ncov2019/for/providers/video/Nurse-Demo-200911.mp4).

The portal itself can be found at [portal.ri.gov/schools](http://portal.ri.gov/schools).
Communication

During these unprecedented times, clear and transparent communication is critical. How will schools, staff, students, and families be notified if there is a confirmed case? The following flowchart outlines three scenarios:

- A symptomatic student/staff member who is a probable case;
- A symptomatic student/staff member who is not a probable case; and
- A symptomatic student/staff member who tests positive (confirmed case)

RIDOH will only notify a school administrator or the close contacts of a confirmed case once there is a confirmed positive case in our system. It is the school's responsibility to notify all school community stakeholders, that aren't confirmed positive cases, that there has been a positive case in the community. RIDOH is providing sample notification letters for school communities to use.

Symptomatic Student

- A student develops symptoms
  - Not Probable but still symptomatic
    - Seek Medical Advice
      - Guardian of probable student picks them up and should call the K12 COVID Test Scheduling Service to schedule a test
        - Student receives a negative result
          - No outreach from RIDOH expected
  - Isolate the probable student in preidentified isolation room

- Student receives a positive result
  - RIDOH becomes aware of Confirmed Positive through testing lab or positive person
    - RIDOH will provide information to the school and superintendent on identity of case and close contacts, what those individuals need to do before returning to school (e.g., quarantine, test, etc.), and communications to push out to full school community
    - RIDOH staff gather as much information as possible using RIDE Probable Portal and data from student information systems

- RIDOH contacts student's guardian and begins contact investigation and identifies close contacts. RIDOH provides information to the guardian regarding isolation and quarantine requirements
  - Schools will communicate information with students and staff who are not close contacts

Close contact is defined as being within six feet of an infected person for more than 15 minutes. RIDOH will offer two sets of sample communications to schools. One is for use with all students, staff, and families in the school. The second set is for use with students who are in the same learning pod as the
positive case. Students who are in the same learning pod will be offered the opportunity to be tested even if they are not identified as close contacts.

Scenarios

Scenario 1: Symptomatic student/staff member who is not a probable case
- The symptomatic person is sent home and is advised to seek medical advice.
- Parent/guardian or patient should monitor symptoms, seek medical advice as needed, and obtain testing if advised.
- A COVID-19 test result is not required but should be considered with any presenting symptom(s) at the discretion of the treating healthcare provider. Some patients with COVID-19 have presented with only one mild symptom or atypical symptoms (i.e. only with diarrhea or other GI complaints) and patients or providers may prefer to test in situations even when the probable case definition is not met.
- For symptomatic individuals, if a rapid diagnostic test result (PCR or antigen) is negative, a confirmatory diagnostic COVID-19 PCR test should be sent to a lab.
- The symptomatic person may return to work/school when:
  - They are 24 hours fever free (without use of fever-reducing medication) and
  - Symptoms are improved (back to usual health).
- If the symptomatic person is a minor, a parent/guardian may complete the After-Illness Return Attestation or attest verbally that resolution of symptom criteria have been met. A note from a healthcare provider is not required.
- A staff person may attest verbally or may complete the After-Illness Return Attestation that resolution of symptom criteria have been met. A note from a healthcare provider is not required.

Scenario 2: Symptomatic student/staff member who is a probable case
- The symptomatic person is sent home and is advised to seek medical advice.
- The staff member, student, or student's parent/guardian should schedule a COVID-19 test through the K-12 COVID Test Scheduling Service.
- Notify RIDOH’s COVID-19 Unit of a probable case by entering the information into the probable portal on the day they exhibited symptoms. (Only assigned school staff can enter a probable case into the portal.)
- Probable case report includes:
  - Patient name and date of birth;
  - Parent/guardian name and phone number;
  - School or program attended;
  - History of symptoms and time of onset; and
  - Results of rapid test and/or name of the lab processing the sample.
- The symptomatic person must isolate at home while awaiting COVID-19 test result.
- Household contacts (roommates are considered household contacts) must quarantine pending the symptomatic person’s COVID-19 test result. If feasible, it is ideal for each close contact to quarantine in a location separate from the symptomatic person and from other close contacts.
- Quarantine of additional close contacts pending probable case test results may be advised by RIDOH when one or more confirmed cases have occurred in the school or program within the past 14 days.
- Close contacts who have tested positive in the past 90 days do not have to quarantine. They are considered to have short-term immunity for 90 days after infection.
- When test results are obtained:
Follow Scenario 3 if probable case test result is positive.
Follow Scenario 4 if probable case test result is negative.

**Scenario 3: Symptomatic student/staff member who tests positive (confirmed case)**
- RIDOH will notify the school and superintendent upon receipt of positive test results. If you learn of a positive test result from another avenue, notify RIDOH’s COVID-19 unit by calling 401-222-8022.
- The confirmed case must continue to isolate and will receive a case investigation phone call from RIDOH.
- RIDOH calls the confirmed case and conducts a case interview and contact tracing.
- RIDOH calls the school or program to obtain the list of close contacts from the school or program, to advise on further actions or closures, and to provide communications materials.
- RIDOH provides isolation instructions to the confirmed case.
- RIDOH calls close contacts and provides quarantine instructions.
- RIDOH counsels people who are diagnosed with symptomatic COVID-19 and remain asymptomatic after recovery that retesting is not recommended within 90 days after the date of symptom onset of the initial COVID-19 infection.³

**Close contact quarantine**
- Close contacts must quarantine for 14 days from the last day of exposure to the case.
- All close contacts should self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms and promptly report any new symptoms to their healthcare provider, RIDOH, or school/program staff.
- If feasible, it is ideal for each close contact to quarantine in a location separate from the symptomatic person and from other close contacts.
- If a close contact is in the same household, the contact must quarantine throughout the case’s isolation period (10 days) and for an additional 14 days after the date of the case’s end of isolation.
- A household contact who has ongoing exposure to the confirmed case is usually quarantined for at least 24 days.
- RIDOH offers testing of close contacts through the K-12 COVID Test Scheduling Service for asymptomatic case finding. Testing negative is not an alternative to completing quarantine. Close contacts must quarantine for 14 days from the last day of exposure to the case.
- Close contacts who have tested positive in the last 90 days are assumed to have short-term immunity from COVID-19 for 90 days after infection. They do not have to quarantine but are instructed to self-monitor for symptoms and seek medical attention for any symptoms of COVID-19.³

**Case isolation**
- Confirmed case must isolate until CDC/RIDOH symptom-based criteria for ending isolation are met:
  - For a **symptomatic** person who tests positive:
    - Use the symptom-based strategy for discontinuing isolation:
      - Fever free for 24 hours (without use of fever medication); AND
      - Symptoms have improved; AND
      - 10 days since symptoms first appeared (20 days if severely immunocompromised⁴).
  - For an **asymptomatic** person who tests positive:
    - Use the time-based strategy for discontinuing isolation:
      - 10 days since the date of specimen collection (20 days if severely immunocompromised⁴). If symptoms develop, use the symptom-based strategy above.

Note: The test-based criteria for ending isolation is not recommended.³ After a person is diagnosed with COVID-19 by a positive test and completed the recommended isolation, additional tests are not necessary or recommended and are strongly discouraged.
Documentation

☐ A parent/guardian, if the symptomatic person is a minor, or adult may complete an After-Illness Return Attestation or verbally attest that criteria for ending isolation have been met. A note from a healthcare provider is not required.

☐ A staff person may self-attest or may complete an After-Illness Return Attestation that criteria for ending isolation have been met. A note from a healthcare provider is not required.

☐ RIDOH can provide a note to the confirmed case documenting release from isolation.

☐ RIDOH can provide a note to close contacts documenting release from quarantine.

Scenario 4: Symptomatic student/staff member who tests negative on lab-processed PCR test

Note: Symptomatic individuals who schedule through the K-12 COVID Test Scheduling Service may receive two tests: an antigen test and a PCR test. The individual is not considered negative until both results come back negative. A negative result on the rapid test does NOT mean the individual is negative. The individual should stay in isolation until they’ve received the result from the second, confirmatory test and until their symptoms are gone.

☐ Symptomatic person who tests negative on lab-processed PCR test may return to work/school when:
  o They are fever free for 24 hours (without use of fever-reducing medication) AND
  o Symptoms have improved (back to usual health).

☐ Any household contact or other close contact(s) in quarantine may end quarantine.

☐ In certain cases, if there is a higher risk for, or clinical suspicion of, COVID-19 due to symptom and exposure history, RIDOH may recommend continuing isolation for the symptomatic person and quarantine of close contacts or repeat testing of the probable case.

☐ A parent/guardian, if the symptomatic person is a minor, or adult may complete an After-Illness Return Attestation or verbally attest that criteria for ending isolation have been met. A note from a healthcare provider is not required.

☐ A staff person may self-attest or may complete an After-Illness Return Attestation that criteria for ending isolation have been met. A note from a healthcare provider is not required.
### Roles and Responsibilities By Activity

#### Topic I: Screening

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>RIDOH Role</th>
<th>School Role</th>
<th>Family/Staff Member Role</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Screens all students and staff prior to entry into the school building.</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excludes an individual for having 1 (or more) symptoms on the Screening Tool but individual does not meet the probable case definition.</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identifies an individual as meeting the probable case definition.</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logs the probable case in the portal.</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isolates child/staff member and notifies family member to pick up child (if applicable)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Readopts the symptomatic individual after meeting the RIDOH criteria listed in the K-12 Playbook.</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Readopts the probable individual after meeting the RIDOH criteria listed in the K-12 Playbook</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Topic II: Case Investigation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>RIDOH Role</th>
<th>School Role</th>
<th>Family/Staff Member Role</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lab confirmed or probable case is reported to RIDOH</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case investigator contacts families for case investigation</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case investigator contacts school for seating arrangement and stable pod information</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Determine close contacts in school, sports, bus seating</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide testing and quarantine guidance</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Determine symptoms and date of onset of infectious period</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Determine household and social close contacts</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Topic III: Contact Tracing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>RIDOH Role</th>
<th>School Role</th>
<th>Family/Staff Member Role</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Determine close contacts and provide testing and quarantine guidance</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Topic IV: Testing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>RIDOH Role</th>
<th>School Role</th>
<th>Family/Staff Member</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Communicates testing availability to students and staff as an available resource.</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommends testing to student(s) and/or staff due to potential COVID exposure.</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schedules test</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coordinates large-scale testing options for LEAs in the event of a cluster and/or outbreak.</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tracks test results</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
COVID-19 Testing for K-12 Students and Staff

Rhode Island has a testing program that is only for K-12 students and staff at public and private schools. To schedule a test, call the K-12 COVID Test Scheduling Service (844) 857-1814, seven days a week from 7:30 a.m. - 9:30 p.m. This service was activated on September 14. This service line is only for K-12 staff and students who have symptoms or who have been identified as a close contact of a positive case or a classmate of a positive case. For information about reopening Rhode Island’s schools, district learning plans, and K-12 outbreak response protocols, visit back2schoolri.com.

Where can K-12 students and staff get a COVID-19 test?

There are places all around the state where students and staff who meet eligibility criteria can get a free COVID-19 test, scheduled through the K-12 COVID Test Scheduling Service.

Who needs to schedule a test?

- Students or staff members who have COVID-19 symptoms should schedule a test.
- Students or staff members who are told they were a close contact of someone else who tested positive for COVID-19 should also get tested, even if they do not have symptoms. A close contact is someone who was closer than six feet for more than 15 minutes.

To schedule an appointment, parents, guardians, staff members, and students older than 16 can call the K-12 COVID Test Scheduling Service (844) 857-1814 between 7:30 a.m. and 9:30 p.m. After you schedule a test, you will get a confirmation email with the date, time, and place of your/your child’s appointment.

What happens on the day of the test?

- A parent or guardian must go to the test site with any child who is younger than 16. Anyone who goes to a test site must wear a mask and follow physical distancing rules.
- If you or your child are scheduled for a drive-up appointment, please stay in your car and keep the windows closed until someone who works at the test site asks you to open them a little bit.
- If you are scheduled for a walk-up appointment, people who work at the test site will show you where to go.
- Anyone who has COVID-19 symptoms will get two tests. The first test is a rapid test, and you will get the results of this test before the end of the day. The second test is called a PCR test, and you will get the results of this test in two days (48 hours).
- Anyone who does not have symptoms but had close contact with someone who has COVID-19 will get a PCR test only.

If you need to cancel or reschedule an appointment, call the K-12 COVID Test Scheduling Service.

When will I get my/my child’s test results?

Rapid tests

- Staff who have COVID-19 symptoms and get a test at the Rhode Island Convention Center will get the result of their rapid test before they leave the site.
- Staff and students who have COVID-19 symptoms and get a test at any other K-12 test site will get the result of their rapid test from East Side Clinical Lab before the end of the day. You can get your rapid test result from East Side Clinical Lab’s patient portal at www.eastsidelab.com/sonicmyaccess, or by texting ESCL to 66349.

PCR tests

- Anyone who gets a PCR test will get their result from Dominion Diagnostics in two days (48 hours). You can get the result of your PCR test by creating an account on the Dominion Diagnostics patient portal.
Stay home and follow quarantine guidance while you wait to get your test result.

What happens if a student or staff member tests positive?

- Anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 will be contacted by RIDOH. They need to isolate for at least 10 days after the first date they developed symptoms. You can return to school or work after 10 days if you have been fever-free for 24 hours without taking a fever-reducing medicine and if your symptoms have improved.
- If you tested positive but do not have any COVID-19 symptoms, you must isolate for 10 days after the date you had a PCR test.
- Your name and phone number will be shared with RIDOH staff to help with case investigation. RIDOH will provide you with further guidance and ask you about your close contacts. After speaking with you, RIDOH staff will also talk with your school and school district.
- Anyone who has been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 should quarantine for 14 days after the last time they had close contact with that person.
- If your COVID-19 symptoms get worse, call your primary care provider or your child’s pediatrician.

What happens if a student or staff member tests negative?

- If the person tested was symptomatic and received two tests (one rapid test and one confirmatory PCR test). They must stay in isolation until they’ve received the result from the second, confirmatory test and until their symptoms are gone.
- If the person tested is the close contact of a positive case, they need to complete their quarantine period, regardless of a negative result.
- If the person tested was not a close contact and the test result is negative, they can go back to work or school after any symptoms have improved and they have been fever-free for 24 hours without using a fever-reducing medication.
- Do not go to work or school if you feel sick.

Testing Sites for K-12 Only

K-12 testing at the Rhode Island Convention Center is for teachers and staff only. The Convention Center, Thundermist Woonsocket, and the Dexter St. testing site in Pawtucket will continue to also conduct testing for the general public. All of the other sites on this list are only for K-12 students and staff.
Resources for Families

What happens if my child has symptoms at home or gets sick in school?

- If your child has any of the symptoms listed below, keep them home from school and call the school to report their absence.
- If your child has any of the symptoms listed below while at school, they will be moved to an area set up specially for students not feeling well and you will be called to come pick up your child.

When does my child need a COVID-19 test?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symptom</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cough (new)</td>
<td>If your child has <strong>ANY ONE</strong> of these symptoms, your child needs a COVID-19 test.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing</td>
<td>• Call your child’s healthcare provider for medical advice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Call (844) 857-1814 (September 14 or after) to schedule a test.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New loss of taste</td>
<td>If your child has <strong>TWO OR MORE</strong> of these symptoms, your child needs a COVID-19 test.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New loss of smell</td>
<td>• Call your child’s healthcare provider for medical advice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fever (temperature higher than 100.4°F or feels feverish to the touch)</td>
<td>• Call (844) 857-1814 (September 14 or after) to schedule a test.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chills</td>
<td>If there is <strong>ONLY ONE</strong> of these symptoms,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Call your child’s healthcare provider for medical advice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Keep your child at home until they have been fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicine and their symptoms have improved.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Your child’s healthcare provider may recommend testing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muscle or body aches</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Headache</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sore throat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fatigue</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Congestion or runny nose (new)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nausea or vomiting</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Diarrhea</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

When can my child go back to school?

**If your child had a COVID-19 test, your child can go back to school when:**

1. You have received **all** COVID-19 test results and they are negative. **AND**
2. Your child has been fever free for 24 hours without taking fever-reducing medicine. **AND**
3. Your child’s symptoms have improved. **AND**
4. Your child has not been told to quarantine by RIDOH because they’re a close contact of a positive case.

**If your child did not have a COVID-19 test because there was only one of the symptoms in the yellow box above, your child can go back to school when:**

1. Your child has been fever free for 24 hours without taking fever-reducing medicine. **AND**
2. Your child’s symptoms have improved.
What if my child tests positive for COVID-19?
Most children who get COVID-19 have milder symptoms than adults and can be cared for at home. Your child’s healthcare provider, school, and RIDOH will help you and give you information about what to do. Your child will need to stay home in isolation until they are no longer contagious.

- Your child’s healthcare provider will call you with test results if they ordered the test.
- RIDOH will call you with test results if the test was ordered through the K-12 COVID Test Scheduling Service.
- RIDOH will call and ask you questions about your child’s health, symptoms, and activities in the past two weeks and give you information about:
  - Symptoms to watch for;
  - How to keep your child separated from others in the home while they are sick; and
  - How long your child will need to be at home in isolation which means staying home until they are no longer contagious to others
- If your child feels well enough to do schoolwork, your child will continue to learn at home through distance learning.

After a positive test, your child can go back to school when:
1. It has been 10 days since the symptoms first started (20 days if your child has a serious problem with the immune system).
   AND
2. Your child has been fever free for 24 hours without taking fever-reducing medicine.
   AND
3. Your child’s symptoms have improved.

What if my child is a close contact of someone who has COVID-19?
Your child will need to quarantine (stay at home) for 14 days after the day they were in close contact with the person with COVID-19. Close contact means being within six feet of someone with COVID-19 for 15 minutes or longer. Being that close to a person with COVID-19 for 15 minutes or longer means you could catch COVID-19 from the person. People spread COVID-19 through small droplets of saliva that get into the air around them when they talk. Someone close by can breathe in those droplets and catch COVID-19. Even when wearing a face mask, a person with COVID-19 could spread the infection to someone close by.

If your child has had close contact with someone with COVID-19, you will get a call from RIDOH.
- RIDOH will call you with information about quarantine and how long your child will need to stay at home.
- During quarantine, you should watch your child for symptoms of COVID-19. If your child feels sick or gets any symptoms during quarantine, follow the instructions in the box on page 14.
- Your child can get a test near the end of the quarantine to make sure they don’t have COVID-19 before going back to school. Even if the test is negative, your child needs to complete 14 days of quarantine at home.
- Your child will continue to learn at home through distance learning.

After being in quarantine, your child can go back to school when:
1. The 14-day quarantine time has ended.
2. Your child’s COVID-19 symptoms have improved.
3. Your child had a negative test result, if they were.
Appendix: Additional Resources

Isolation
- [https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/index.html)
- Duration of Isolation and Precautions

Monitoring Signs and Symptoms
- Symptoms of COVID-19
- Fact Sheet: Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C)

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), Masks, Cleaning and Disinfecting Procedures
- Optimizing Supply of PPE and Other Equipment During Shortages
- Using Personal Protective Equipment
- Proper Disposal of PPE
- Cleaning and Disinfecting Facilities

Quarantine
- When to Begin and End Quarantine

Resources for Schools and Parents
Printable Posters
- Checklist for Coaches Poster
- Donning and Doffing of PPE Poster
- Facemask Do's and Don'ts Poster
- How to Collect Your Anterior Nasal Swab Sample for COVID-19 Testing Poster
- How to Protect Yourself and Others
- How to Put on and Take off an N95 Mask Poster
- How to Safely Wear and Take Off a Mask
- Keep Space Between You and Others Poster
- Keep Youth Athletes Safe Poster
- Key Times to Social Distance Poster
- Key Times to Wash Your Hands Poster
- Key Times to Wear Gloves Poster
- Please Read Before Entering Poster
- Quarantine vs Isolation Poster
- Stop the Spread of Germs Poster
- Symptoms of Coronavirus Poster
- What You Do While You’re Waiting for Your COVID Test Results
- Wash Your Hands
- Wear a Mask That Protects You and Others (English)
- Wear a Mask That Protects You and Others (Spanish)
- Wear a Mask That Protects You and Others (Portuguese)
- What Your Test Results Mean

Videos
- Donning and Doffing PPE
- How to Wear a Mask
• I Think or Know I had COVID-19, and I Had Symptoms. When Can I Be with Others?
• Key Times to Wear a Mask

Rhode Island Guidance
• After Illness Return Attestation Form
• Considerations for K-12 Schools: Readiness and Planning Tool
• COVID-19 Facilities and Physical Plant School Checklist
• COVID-19 Testing Consent Form
• COVID-19 Updates and Resources
• Health and Safety Guidance to Reopen Rhode Island’s Elementary and Secondary Schools
• K-12 Playbook
• Reopening FAQs
• School-Based Testing & Case Investigation Preparation Guidance
• Key Times to Wear a Mask
• Learn How to Correctly Wear a Mask
• School Reopening with COVID-19: Maintain Healthy Operations
• School Reopening with COVID-19: Prepare for When Someone Gets Sick
• School Reopening with COVID-19: Promote Healthy Behaviors
• Symptoms of COVID (Video)
• Viral Test for COVID-19
• Case Investigation Presentation Overview