



Attachment A

LEA Back-to-School Plan COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies

As part of the LEA Back-to-School Plan Health & Safety component, policies and procedures related to COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies should be submitted electronically by or before **August 13, 2021** for review and feedback from the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH), as applicable. The electronic survey is available here: <https://forms.office.com/g/ESjpgYymqb>.

Submissions will be accepted prior to August 13 and early submission is encouraged. This document is for planning purposes only.

Please share your name and the district you are answering on behalf of, so RIDOH can return the results of your survey to you. You will publish the responses along with your completed LEA Template.

If you have any questions or require further information about the COVID-19 mitigation guidance, call 401-222-8022.

Masking

1	Will you have a universal masking policy? Note: Policy states that the district will comply with all executive orders of a higher authority (i.e. Governor). If the executive order is lifted, the school committee policy will "kick in," as described here.	Yes – all students and staff required to wear (for periods of substantial or high community transmission)	Yes – universal policy that students and staff not required, but recommended (Only for periods of low community transmission)	No – no universal policy
If you selected option 2 or 3, what will your policies be for the below:		For periods of moderate transmission: Required for all unvaccinated staff/students; Optional for all vaccinated staff/students		
2 See above	Unvaccinated students	Required	Recommended	Not Required
3 See above	Vaccinated students	Required	Recommended	Not Required
4 See above	Unvaccinated teachers/staff	Required	Recommended	Not Required
5 See above	Vaccinated teachers/staff	Required	Recommended	Not Required





Symptom Screening

6	What kind of symptom screening will your school conduct for students, teachers and staff?	Virtual Screening	"Stay at home when sick" policy	Daily home screening	Other
7	If "Other", please explain.	N/A			
8	How will you implement and effectively monitor symptom screening?	Same strategies as implemented in 2020-21 school year. Parents submit daily attestation (paper or electronic survey), monitored by classroom teachers and/or nursing/secretarial staff OR parents may sign a one-time screening commitment contract. Staff will monitor for symptoms in school and follow all protocols for testing (as described below). Additionally, students/staff will be sent home if symptoms arise.			

Physical Distancing

Per state guidance, the recommended physical distancing is:

Vaccination Status	Physical Distance Recommendation
Eligible Age Group (7th grade - High School)	Not required
Ineligible Age Group (Elementary – 6th grade) without Stable Groups	Recommend at least 3 feet, especially while students are dining without a mask indoors.
Stable Groups	Not required; Recommend at least 3 feet between stable groups for indoor activities in shared spaces.

9	What level of physical distancing will you implement indoors for:				
9a	Stable Groups (Where Applicable)	0 up to 3 feet	3 up to 6 feet	6 or more feet	
9b	Vaccine Eligible Groups in High School	0 up to 3 feet	3 up to 6 feet	6 or more feet	
9c	Vaccine Ineligible Groups in Middle School without stable groups	0 up to 3 feet	3 up to 6 feet	6 or more feet	
9d	Age groups in Elementary School without stable groups	0 up to 3 feet	3 up to 6 feet	6 or more feet	
10	Can you confirm that you will adhere to recommended CDC guidance and not implement cohorts according to vaccination status?	Yes			





11	Will you implement cohorts? Select all that apply.	Yes – High School	Yes – Middle School	Yes - Elementary	No
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Testing

The different types of testing strategies are:

- Symptomatic testing:** It is strongly recommended that schools test students and staff members who have COVID-19 symptoms.
- Outbreak testing:** In the event of a spike in positive cases, RIDOH will provide staffing and resources to conduct on-site PCR testing.
- Routine Asymptomatic Testing:** Schools monitor transmission data to determine what level of asymptomatic testing is recommended.

For further testing guidance, visit the CDC website: [Testing Strategies for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools](#)

	Low Transmission	Moderate Transmission	Substantial Transmission	High Transmission
Case Threshold* <i>Cases / 100K in the past 7 days</i>	0 – 9	10 – 49	50 – 99	100+
CDC Recommendations: <i>All Students</i>	No testing required	Expanded screening testing of students once per week	Expanded screening testing of students once per week	Expanded screening testing of students once per week
RI Proposed Recommendations: <i>All Students</i>	No testing required	No testing required	25% of non-vaccinated individuals surveillance program per week	50% of non-vaccinated individuals surveillance program per week
CDC Recommendations: <i>Sports (High-risk vs. Low/Intermediate)</i>	Test once per week	Test once per week	High-risk: twice per week Low/intermediate-risk: once per week	High-risk: twice per week Low/intermediate-risk: once per week

*Case rates tracked at the municipal level

11	Are you planning to implement opt-in parental consent to testing which would be obtained at the start of school and remain for the duration of the academic year? *RIDOH will offer support to implement.	Yes	No	
12	What will the frequency of asymptomatic			





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	surveillance testing be when there is:					
	*See table above.					
12a	Low Transmission	Weekly	Twice Weekly	Daily	None	
12b	Moderate Transmission	Weekly	Twice Weekly	Daily	None	
12c	Substantial Transmission	Weekly	Twice Weekly	Daily	None	
12d	High Transmission	Weekly	Twice Weekly	Daily	None	
13	Where will you offer outbreak and symptomatic testing?	On-site	Off-site	Other	On-site for symptomatic testing; Off-site for outbreak testing	
14	Will you offer testing for symptomatic individuals?	Yes – Both Binax and PCR	Yes - PCR	Yes – Binax	No	
15	If No how do you plan to connect a symptomatic student with testing?	N/A (However, if a parent prefers to bring their child for testing off-site, the school nurse teacher will communicate with that family to ensure they are connected to a testing site)				
16	If offering Binax only for symptomatic individuals with negative test results, how will you ensure a confirmatory PCR test is scheduled?	N/A				
17	What opt-in testing support will you need?	Hire additional staff with ELC funds	Incentivize existing staff using ELC funds	State-Delivered Testing Support	State support in establishing lab connections for test results	None
18	If you selected one of the options above, please provide more details (i.e. your HST model,	Hire one registered nurse to oversee/support COVID mitigation, surveillance and symptomatic testing, quarantine and isolation, and contact tracing. The individual will work collaboratively with existing school-based nursing staff.				





	incentives for current staff, etc.)	
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Quarantine

Per state and CDC guidance, the definition of a close contact for students is: In most instances, those who have been within 6 feet of a confirmed case for greater than 15 minutes will be deemed a close contact. As a result, a reduction in spacing between individuals will likely lead to the identification of more close contacts if there is a positive case within the classroom.

Quarantine Guidelines:

- Unvaccinated students who were within 0 to 3 feet of the infected student in an indoor classroom for a total of 15 minutes over a 24-hour period must quarantine.
- Unvaccinated students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student in an indoor classroom for a total of 15 minutes over a 24-hour period do not need to quarantine IF:
 - Both students were masked correctly and consistently and
 - The school follows the State's most recent guidance on ventilation; and
 - One or more additional K–12 school prevention strategies were in place, including but not limited to:
 - Screening daily for symptoms
 - Routine asymptomatic testing when recommended
 - Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
 - Cleaning and disinfection protocols in place
 - Ventilation is maximized
 - Promoting vaccination
 - Screening testing to promptly identify cases, clusters and outbreaks
 - Staying home when sick and getting tested
 - Contact tracing, in combination with isolation and quarantine

Take this into consideration when answering the quarantine questions below.

*This is based on current CDC guidance, which may change.

19	If RIDOH does not have the ability to mandate a state-wide quarantine requirement, what quarantine period will you implement?	None	7 Days, with testing (Recommended)	10 Days, No Testing	14 Days
20	Will you require unvaccinated close contacts to quarantine?	Yes	No		





21	Will you require vaccinated close contacts to quarantine?	YES	No (But will monitor for symptoms and require testing)		
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Vaccination

22	Have you previously worked with RIDOH to provide vaccines?	Yes	No		
23	Will you offer an opt-in submission of students' vaccine status to inform mitigation policies?	Yes	No		
24	If yes, explain how you collect and record statuses.	Kids-Net and opt-in verification			
25	Have you scheduled a state-run vaccination clinic in your district for SY21-22?	Yes	No		
26	If yes, at what location(s) will you hold it?	N/A			
27	Who do you expect to be present at the clinic?	Students	Teachers/Staff	Families	
28	Are there any schedule considerations as far as student attendance that RIDOH needs to be aware of for scheduling? (First day of school, arrival/dismissal time, other logistics and timing information that could impact a vaccination clinic)	N/A			
29	How will you promote vaccination among teachers, staff, families and eligible students?	Provide information about COVID-19 vaccination	Encourage vaccine trust and confidence	Establish policies and practices that make getting vaccinated easy and convenient	Other
30	Based on your response above, please provide more information regarding your plan to promote vaccination.	Incentivize vaccination through policy (For example, fewer/lesser requirements for quarantine); Establish on-site clinics based on community interest (and in collaboration with local EMA officials); Share data on community/school vaccination rates and positivity rates – especially if we see trends that favor vaccination.			





Cleaning, Disinfection and Hand Hygiene

31	Confirm that you will adhere to CDC cleaning, disinfection and hand hygiene guidance. Visit CDC website for further details.	Yes			
32	Describe your plan to follow CDC cleaning, disinfection, and hand hygiene guidance	<p>Guidance on handwashing can be found here.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleaning staff will clean and disinfect all areas (e.g., offices, bathrooms, Classrooms and common areas), focusing especially on frequently touched surfaces. • High touch area cleaning includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets and sinks, and touch screens • If surfaces are dirty, they should be cleaned using a detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection. • Restrooms will have a total cleaning once per day but cleaned after each use during school day. • Staff rooms, conference rooms and lunch rooms will be cleaned between each use. • All classrooms and common areas cleaned nightly. • Close off areas used by the individuals with COVID-19 and wait as long as practical before beginning cleaning and disinfection to minimize potential for exposure to respiratory droplets. Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area. If possible, wait up to 24 hours before beginning cleaning and disinfection. All buildings will be cleaned a minimum of once per day. • The following checklist has been developed for classroom cleaning/disinfecting procedures between student groupings/classes. Teachers will use this checklist to develop procedures for ensuring that these steps are taken each time there is a change in students or after each snack/meal time takes place in the classroom. 			





Ventilation

When planning for ventilation improvements, note that facilities and capital improvements related to COVID-19 response and recovery are an allowable use of LEA ESSER funds.

33	What ventilation strategies have you already implemented? Select all that apply.	Opening windows and doors	HVAC System with 4-6 ACH minimum	Indoor filtration of MERV13 or higher	Portable air cleaner with HEPA filters	Other/Explain
34	What ventilation strategies do you plan to implement for the 2021-22 school year? Select all that apply.	Opening windows and doors	HVAC System with 4-6 ACH minimum Metcalf & Lineham only	Indoor filtration of MERV13 or higher JSHS Only	Portable air cleaner with HEPA filters	Other/Explain

Other

35	What primary language options are needed by your district for 2021-22 guidance documents?	English	Spanish	Portuguese	Khmer	Haitian Creole	Swahili	Arabic	Other
36	If there is anything else you would like to share regarding your back to school COVID-19 mitigation plan, explain below.	N/A							

