



Outbreak Response Protocols: Pre K-12

Guidance for COVID-19 outbreak response in Pre K-12 schools

Version 7.2 (Updated December 20, 2021)

RHODE
ISLAND

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Summary of Changes

Current Version is 7.2
December 20, 2021

Summary of Changes to the Playbook

Version 6.0 (August 13, 2021)

- Revised definition of a probable case (Slide: 7)
- Revised testing protocol for all close contacts (Slides: 2, 50, 52, 53, 62)
- Revised close contact exceptions (Slides: 25, 26, 50, 72, 73)
- Revised travel quarantine guidance (Slides: 30, 39, 40, 50)
- Revised bus quarantine guidance (Slide: 70)
- Revised Isolation within a Household (Slide: 42)
- Revised Sports Quarantine Protocols (Slide: 80)
- Revised Testing for COVID-19 (Slides: 94, 95, 96, 97)
- Revised Confirming a Positive Asymptomatic Antigen Test Results (Slides: 99, 100)

Version 6.1 (August 27, 2021)

- Removed the probable case definition (Slides: 6, 7, 8, 112)
- Added the new universal mask requirement for K-12 schools (Slides: 20, 47, 48, 50)
- Reworded the definition of close contact (Slides: 18, 112)

Summary of Changes to Playbook

Version 6.2 (September 7, 2021)

- Added “Who to Send Home or Exclude from School” clarification (Slide: 9)
- Revised testing requirements for all close contacts to who have not tested positive in the past 90 days (Slides: 22, 54, 65)
- Revised symptomatic individuals with positive antigen test results.

Version 7.0 (October 12, 2021)

- New option for responding to someone with COVID-19 symptoms (Slides: 9, 10)
- Household members don’t need to quarantine while test results are pending for a symptomatic household member (Slide: 92)
- Expansion of the Pre K-12 Close Contact Quarantine Exception to apply to structured outdoors classroom settings (Slide: 23)
- At-home self-tests (Slide: 61)
- Planning for Pre K-12 School Events (Slide: 76)

Version 7.1 (October 28, 2021)

- Contact tracing no longer required on school buses (Slide: 24, 73)
- Contact tracing no longer required for outdoor recess (Slide: 24)
- Quarantine exemptions for Pre K-12 students and staff (Slide: 25)
- Fully vaccinated individuals need to test five to seven days after exposure (Slide: 14, 24, 25, 32, 48, 49)
- Vaccine boosters (Slide: 45)

Summary of Changes to Playbook

NEW

Version 7.2 (December 20, 2021)

- Updated language is highlighted for reference
- Addition of Test to Stay information (Slide: 25, 28)
- Negative Antigen or PCR test result is an acceptable form of test for staff and students to return to school (Slide: 27)
- Addition of section on vaccination information (Slide: 45-51)
- Statewide masking and vaccination Executive Order (Slide: 60)
- Self-test updates (Slide: 68-71)
- Opposing sports team no longer required to quarantine (Slide: 94-95)

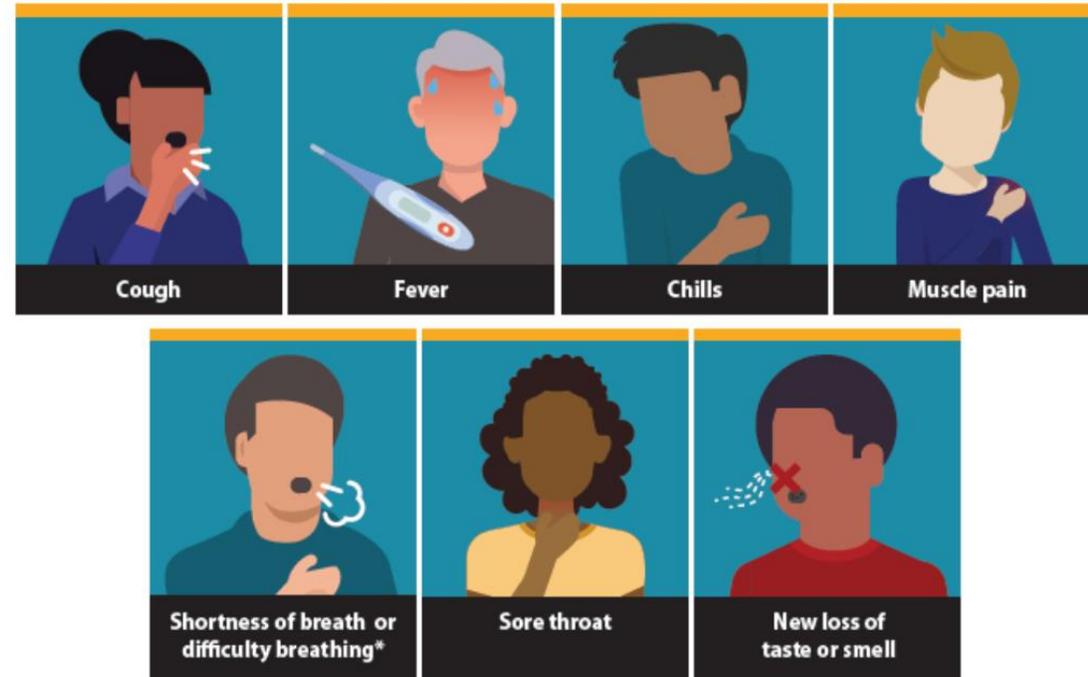
COVID-19 Fundamentals

How To Use This Playbook

- This playbook is designed to serve as a resource for school leaders, school nurses, COVID-19 Coordinators, and families to outline the most current State requirements and best practice recommendations to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- Clarification on public health terminology:
 - **Requirements:** policies or behaviors that must be followed; Requirements may be a federal law, a State Regulation, or a Governor’s Executive Order.
 - **Recommendations:** policies or behaviors that should be followed; Recommendations are based on best practice, science, data, experience, and resources.
 - **School Policy:** Schools may have policies that are more strict or different than what is required or recommended.

Symptoms of COVID-19

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



Include COVID-19 Symptom Management into Existing Illness Policies

Option A

Anyone with new onset of one symptom of COVID-19 must isolate, go home, and get tested.

Option B

Same clinical criteria from 2020-2021 school year:
Individuals with **one major** or **two minor** symptoms of COVID-19 must isolate, go home, and get tested.

**If choosing Option B, anyone with one minor COVID-19 symptom may remain in school. Schools may continue to send home anyone with one symptom such as fever, vomiting, or diarrhea according to regular school policy.*

- *Note: COVID-19 policies should be included in existing school illness policies. For example, if someone has a fever or is vomiting, they should be sent home if it is in existing illness policies, even if it's not included in the COVID-19 policy.*
- *Note: Schools maintain the ability to choose the best COVID-19 symptom policy based on community and school-wide transmission rates and other relevant factors.*

Use Case Clinical Criteria When Assessing Symptoms

Any ONE major symptom:
PROBABLE

- Cough (new)
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- New loss of taste or smell

Any TWO minor symptoms:
PROBABLE

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

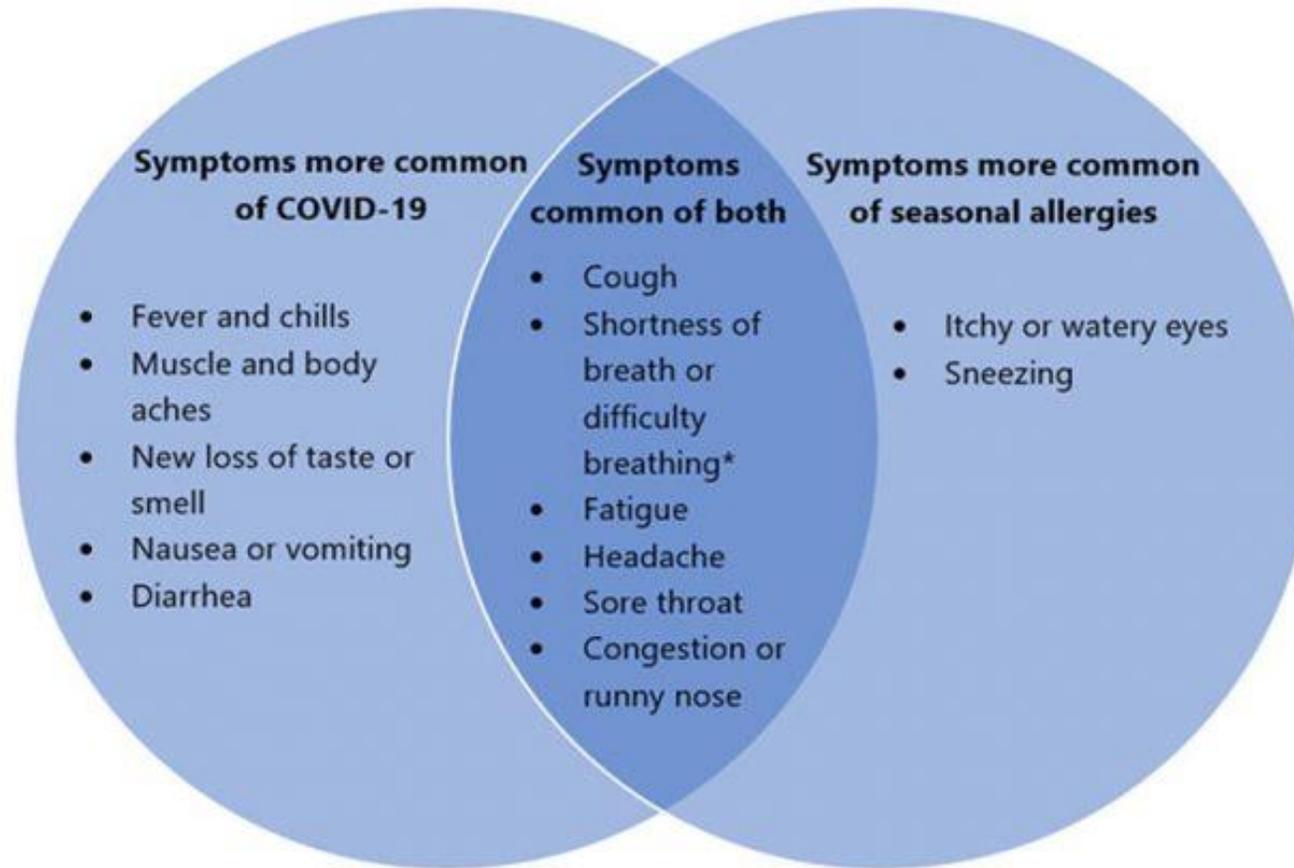
Testing and Returning to School After Symptoms of COVID-19

Scenarios for when a symptomatic individual is tested, based on school policy:

- If a rapid antigen test result is positive, then the symptomatic person must follow isolation guidelines before returning to school.
- If a rapid antigen test result is negative, then the symptomatic person should still be sent home and must get tested with a lab-processed PCR test.
 - If the PCR test result is positive, then the person must follow isolation guidelines before returning to school.
 - If the PCR test result is negative, then the person is allowed to return to school when
 - They have been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicine; **and**
 - Symptoms have improved.
 - Some symptoms may be caused by seasonal allergies or other chronic illness and may continue for longer periods of time. In this case, a student should be permitted to return to school if their PCR test result is negative and they have been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicine.

COVID-19 and Allergies

When there is new onset of ANY symptom, it could be COVID-19.



COVID-19 and Allergies, Asthma, or Chronic Health Conditions

If a student or staff has new onset of COVID-19 symptoms that require staying home or dismissal from school, they should stay home and get tested.

- If the **PCR** test result is negative and symptoms are consistent with allergies, asthma, or other chronic health conditions, then the individual may return to school/sports after being fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicine.
 - If symptoms are a result of allergies, they may last as long as the allergen (i.e., pollen) is present. This may be for weeks or longer. The child may attend school/sports as long as there is no fever, no new COVID-19 symptoms, and no sudden change of symptoms.
- If the individual has a new additional COVID-19 symptom or sudden change or worsening of runny nose, nasal congestion, or other symptom, then they should
 - Be sent home;
 - Get medical advice; and
 - Get tested, as required, to return to school/sports.

What if someone with a COVID-19 symptom refuses to get tested?

- If someone with symptoms refuses to get tested, the individual should be managed the same way as a positive case of COVID-19:
 - The individual should isolate for 10 days.
 - The household contacts should quarantine.
 - School contacts should get **either a PCR or antigen test** 5-7 days after exposure regardless of their vaccination status.
- If someone was identified as a close contact, they are required to get tested regardless of symptoms per [Executive Order](#).

Infectious Period and Isolation Timelines

What Is the Infectious Period for COVID-19?

- **Symptomatic Cases**

- Two calendar days prior to symptom onset until 10 days after symptom onset.

- **Asymptomatic Cases**

- Two calendar days prior to testing (the date the swabbing was conducted) until 10 days after the date of testing.

Isolation

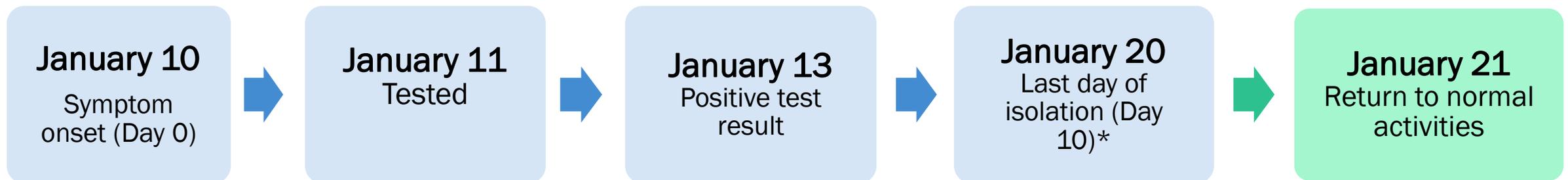
- **Isolation** is for the **ill** or **infected**
 - Separate individuals who are infected with COVID-19 from other people.
 - Stay home and isolate from household members as much as possible.

- The duration of isolation depends on whether the individual is
 - Symptomatic or asymptomatic; or
 - Immunocompromised.

Isolation for Symptomatic Individuals

Symptomatic

- 10 days since symptoms first appeared (20 days if severely immunocompromised); and
- Fever free for at least 24 hours without use of fever-reducing medicine; and
- Other COVID-19 symptoms are improving.
 - Loss of taste and smell may persist for weeks or months after recovery and need not delay the end of isolation.

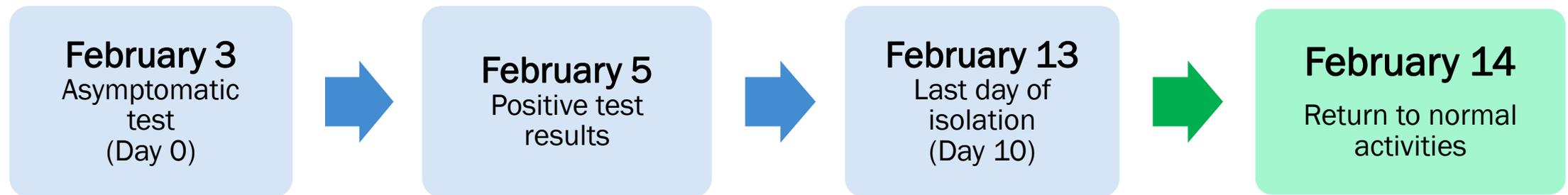


**Assuming that symptomatic criteria are met.*

Isolation for Asymptomatic Individuals

Asymptomatic

- 10 days from the date of individual was tested (20 days if severely immunocompromised).
- If symptoms develop during isolation, follow guidance for isolation for symptomatic individuals on Slide 18.



Close Contacts and Quarantine

Definition of Close Contact

Close contact is

- An individual who has been within six feet of an infected person (with or without a face mask) for 15 minutes or more in a 24-hour period in either an indoor or outdoor setting regardless of vaccination status:
 - i.e., three five-minute interactions during the day; or
- An individual who has had unprotected direct contact with secretions or excretions of a person with confirmed COVID-19 in either an indoor or outdoor setting:
 - i.e., an infected person coughed directly in someone's face

Definition of Close Contacts in Sports

Close contacts in sports may be different and can depend on:

- **Physical closeness of players**
 - When playing most team sports, six feet of distance cannot be maintained; and
 - Athletes often have face-to-face contact with other players.
- **Level of intensity of activity**
 - Activities that are high intensity or require a high level of exertion (such as full competition) present a higher level of risk for getting and spreading COVID-19.

Proximity + Intensity = Increased Risk of Respiratory Droplets Transmission



(Close Contact without meeting the 15-minute mark)

Quarantine

- **Quarantine** is for unvaccinated individuals who were identified as a close contact to a case (infected person).
 - Quarantine keeps someone who may have been exposed to the virus away from others.
 - These individuals must stay home and monitor for symptoms.
 - Last date of exposure is considered Day 0 for quarantine.

Quarantine Exemptions for Pre K-12 Students and Staff

Updated

According to Executive Order [21-112](#), people identified as close contacts are exempt from quarantine if they

- Are fully vaccinated;
- Have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 90 days;
- Meet all criteria for the Pre K-12 Close Contact Quarantine Exception (Find details on Slide 26);
- Are Pre K-12 students or staff and the exposure happened during outdoor recess at school; or
- Were exposed on Pre K-12 school bus and windows were open, everyone wore face masks, and both the driver and at least one additional adult were present to confirm proper mask use and open windows.

Additionally, students and staff who attend a Rhode Island school that has entered into a formal written agreement with the State to implement the Test to Stay Program (TTS) have a modified quarantine protocol. (Find details on Slide 28.)

Pre K-12 Student Close Contact Exception

- A Pre K-12 student exposed to another Pre K-12 student infected with COVID-19 doesn't need to quarantine if all of the following are true:
 - Both the infected person and exposed close contact are Pre K-12 students;
 - The exposure occurred in an **indoor** Pre K-12 classroom or **structured outdoor pre K-12 setting** where mask use can be observed.
 - Both the exposed close contact student and the infected student wore face masks at all times during the close contact exposure; and
 - At least three feet of physical distance was maintained at all times during the exposure.
- This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults.
- Students must get tested immediately following the exposure and again five to seven days later even if they meet the criteria for the Pre K-12 close contact exception and are exempt from quarantine.
- Students meeting this close contact exception should **NOT be included on the close contact spreadsheet** that is submitted to RIDOH.

Quarantine Options

Updated

RIDOH recommends the least disruptive quarantine option:

- **7 days** from the last day they were in contact with the infected individual **if they get a negative PCR or antigen test result on day 5 or later.** Continue to watch for symptoms through day 14.

Other quarantine options:

- **10 days** from the last day they were in contact with the infected individual. Continue to watch for symptoms through day 14.
- **14 days** from the last day they were in contact with the infected individual. Safest option but more disruptive.
- RIDOH **does not** decide which option(s) each school/LEA chooses to implement.
- RIDOH **does** encourage schools to inform their community which option they have chosen to implement.

Note: Learn more about TTS quarantine protocol on the next slide

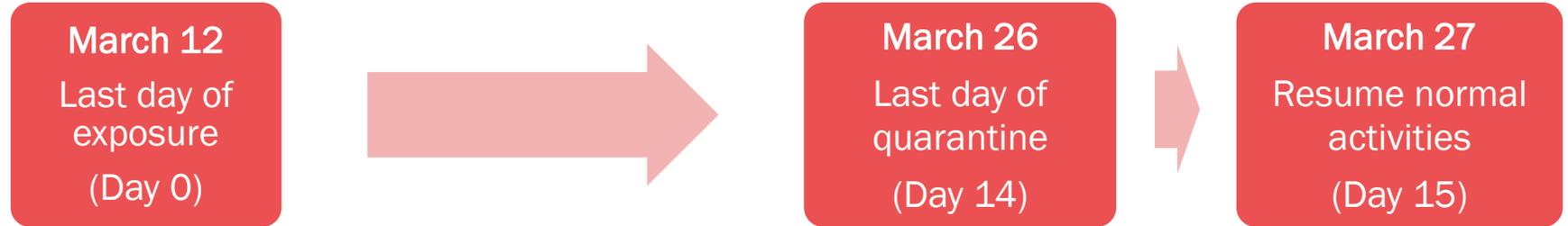
Test to Stay Update

New

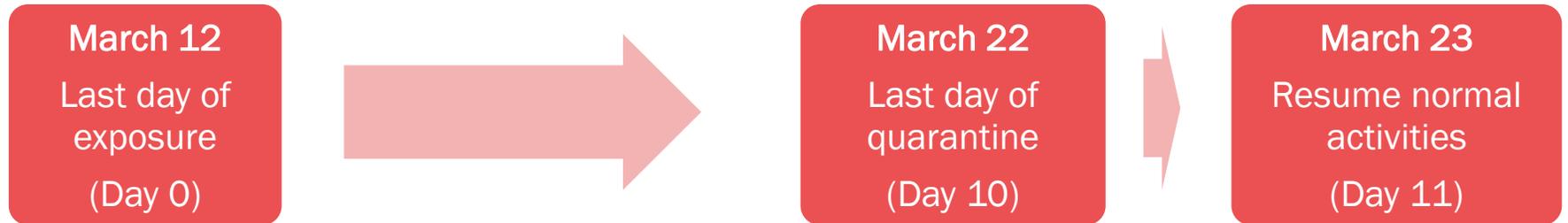
- The Westerly Test to Stay Pilot Program (TTS) is complete, and the data will be presented once the analysis is complete.
 - Schools planning to implement the test to stay quarantine option are strongly recommended to promote vaccination as the most effective, comprehensive, and long-term strategy to keep kids in school.
- RIDE, with RIDOH's support, are continuing conversations with districts that are interested in the Test to Stay Program. The following steps are required in order to implement a Test to Stay program for eligible students
 1. Attend a Test to Stay information session. Contact back2school@ride.ri.gov in order to participate in an info session;
 2. Review the Test to Stay [playbook \[docs.google.com\]](#);
 3. Review, sign, and submit the TTS [MOU \[docs.google.com\]](#); and
 4. Complete and submit TTS implementation plan.

Calculating Quarantine Options

- **14 Day Quarantine Option**



- **10 Day Quarantine Option**



- **7 Day with Negative Test Quarantine Option**

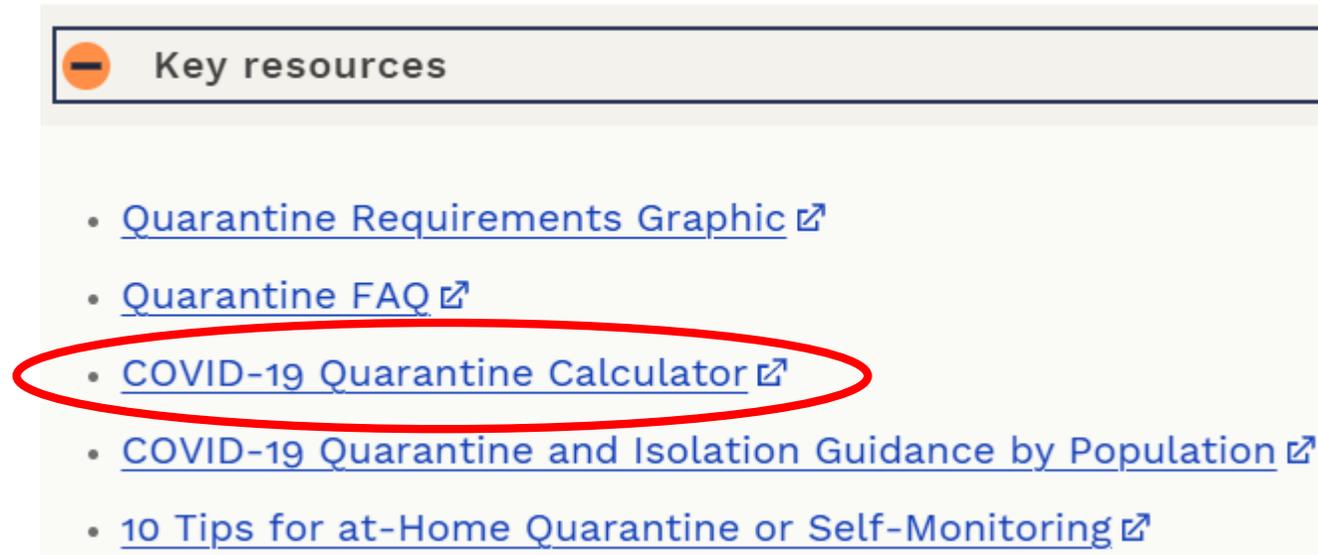


School Quarantine Policies

- How can schools communicate to families why they chose to enforce the quarantine option they selected?
 - RIDOH playbook includes recommendations and guidance.
 - Shorter quarantine policies for close contacts and travelers come with increased risk of transmission of COVID-19 but are less disruptive to in-person learning.
 - Schools have discretion to implement more stringent policies.
 - Schools can determine the risk-benefit assessment that is best for their school community.

Calculating Quarantine Duration Options

- Need help determining end of quarantine dates?
- RIDOH has created a [COVID-19 Close Contact Quarantine Calculator](#)
 - Click this link, then scroll down and click on *Key resources* drop down to download the calculator.



Test ALL Close Contacts Who Have Not Tested Positive in the Past 90 Days

Updated

Per [Executive Order](#) both unvaccinated and vaccinated individuals must get tested if they're identified as a close contact. This is a State law. LEAs aren't required to monitor testing of these individuals.

- **Unvaccinated Close Contacts:** People who aren't fully vaccinated must get tested immediately after being identified as a close contact. If test results are negative, they must get tested either right away if symptoms develop during quarantine or five to seven days after the last exposure.
- **Vaccinated Close Contacts:** People who are fully vaccinated must get tested five to seven days after exposure. They must continue to wear masks in public indoor settings and crowded outdoor settings for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result.
 - Fully vaccinated individuals may also be tested as soon as they are identified as a close contact but are required to test five to seven days after the close contact exposure. This will help find asymptomatic breakthrough infection and quickly isolate to prevent further spread.
- If an individual wants to shorten their quarantine period to seven days with a negative PCR or antigen test result from day 5 or after, the school must validate proof of that negative test result before the student is permitted to return to school.

Close Contacts in School FAQs

- **If we are notified of a positive case during the school day, do we need to send the close contacts home immediately?**
 - It is always preferable to quarantine close contacts as soon as possible. However, if it is not feasible to send the student home immediately, a close contact can remain in school, follow the normal dismissal process, and begin their quarantine when they get home.
- **What do we do if a close contact comes to school because they have not yet been quarantined by RIDOH?**
 - Schools can send the student home.
 - Schools can inform staff/students that they have been identified as a close contact and should stay home in accordance with RIDOH guidance.

Testing of Close Contacts FAQs

Updated

- **Is testing during quarantine required?**
 - Testing during quarantine is required by [Executive Order](#). The testing requirements are different depending on vaccination status. **PCR or antigen tests may be used.**
 - Unvaccinated close contacts must get tested as soon as they're notified that they're a close contact and again five to seven days after the exposure.
 - Fully vaccinated close contacts must get tested five to seven days after the exposure.
- **What if the school requires testing before close contacts can return to school, and an individual is refusing testing?**
 - In a non-outbreak setting, the individual should quarantine for 10 days.
 - In an outbreak setting, the individual should quarantine for 14 days.

Testing of Close Contacts FAQs

- Why is RIDOH recommending testing for some students who were never on quarantine?
 - RIDOH may recommend testing for the entire classroom or group due to the possibility of asymptomatic transmission in certain situations, such as
 - An outbreak involving many cases and many close contacts within a large group of students/staff (e.g., classroom, grade, wing of a school, or sports team) or when there is increasing community or statewide spread of COVID-19.

For individuals who are not fully vaccinated and don't meet any quarantine exemptions:

- If I get tested during quarantine and get a negative test result, when does my quarantine end?
 - If you get tested on day 5 or after with **either a PCR or antigen test**, your last day of quarantine will be Day 7. You can resume normal activities on day 8 and continue to monitor for symptoms through day 14.
 - If you get tested earlier than day 5 you cannot end quarantine after day 7.
- If I am not on quarantine and I want to go for asymptomatic testing, do I need to quarantine while I wait for results?
 - No. If you are asymptomatic and get tested, you do NOT need to quarantine while you wait for results.

- If I get tested during quarantine and I'm positive, how long do I need to stay home?
 - If an individual on quarantine tests positive for COVID-19, the person must isolate for 10 days from symptom onset or 10 days from the date of the specimen collection if the person is asymptomatic.
- Do contacts of contacts need to quarantine?
 - No. Only unvaccinated close contacts of the person who was infectious need to quarantine because a contact of a contact cannot spread COVID-19.

School-Specific Quarantine FAQs

- **Can I require my staff to quarantine for more than seven days even if they get a negative result from a test taken at least five days after the close contact?**
 - Yes, employers may require employees to quarantine for longer than the shortest quarantine option.
- **Can I offer a shorter quarantine period for my staff but require students to wait for 10 days before returning to school?**
 - Yes, you can have different policies for students and staff.

Isolation and Quarantine for Household Members

Isolation Within the Household

- A person in isolation is considered separated from others while in isolation within the household if:
 - The isolated person stays in the house but stays in their own bedroom at all times and uses a separate bathroom and does not share any common areas with others in the household.
 - If a separate bathroom is not available, special care should be taken to disinfect the shared bathroom in between each use. If the bathroom is disinfected between each use, the infected person is considered to be isolating within the household.
 - The isolated person stays in the house but on a completely separate floor or living area at all times (e.g., separate apartment within the house).
 - Either the isolated person or the other household members temporarily move out of the household while the case is in isolation.

Quarantine for Unvaccinated Household Members Who CAN Separate from a Person in Isolation within the Household

- Household members would start their quarantine from the date of last exposure to the infected household member (called Day 0).
- Day 0 is the last day that household members and the infected household member shared living space;
 - Spent time together in the same rooms;
 - Were closer than six feet for more than 15 minutes or more during a 24-hour period.
- Household members have three options for quarantine starting on Day 0:
 - **Option 1:** Seven days with a negative test result on day 5 or after (released on day 8);
 - **Option 2:** 10 days (released on day 11); or
 - **Option 3:** 14 days (released on day 15).

Quarantine for Unvaccinated Household Members Who CANNOT Separate from a Person in Isolation Within the Household

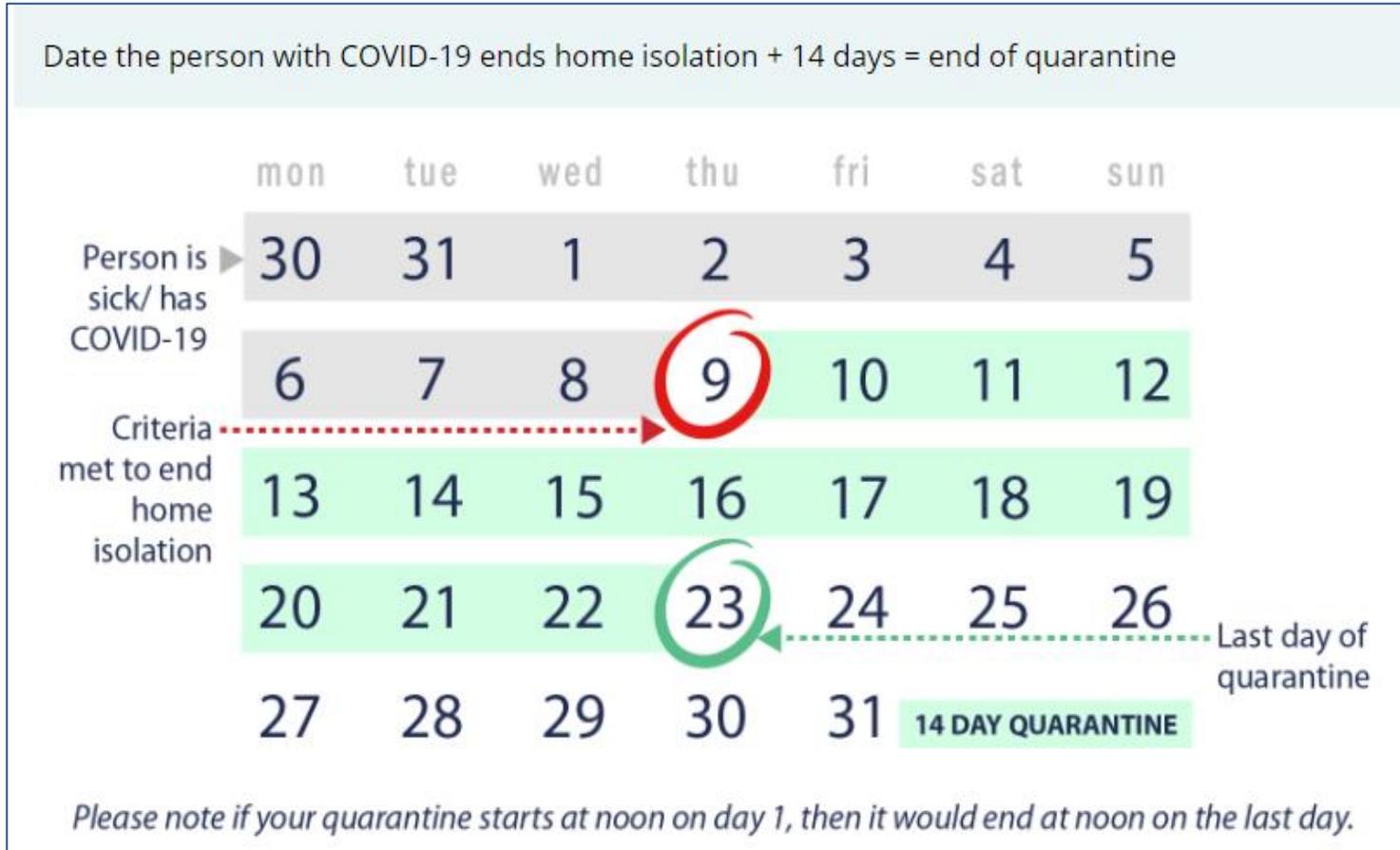
Updated

- Household members need to quarantine while the infected individual is in isolation (until 10 days after symptom onset or swab date if asymptomatic) and then start their own quarantine.
 - Last day of isolation for the case is Day 0 for the household members.
 - Household members have three options starting on Day 0:
 - **Option 1:** 7 days with a negative **PCR or antigen** test result on day 5 or after (total of 17 days in quarantine—released on day 18);
 - **Option 2:** 10 days (total of 20 days in quarantine—released on day 21); or
 - **Option 3:** 14 days (total of 24 days in quarantine—released on day 25).
- All close contacts must get tested regardless of vaccination status.

Quarantine End Dates for Household Members who Cannot Separate

Updated

Last Date of Quarantine for Each Option Based on the Sample Calendar



- **14-day Quarantine**

- Last day is Thursday, the 23rd.

- **10-day Quarantine**

- Last day is Saturday, the 19th.

- **7-day Quarantine**

- Test on Tuesday, the 14th, or later.
- If the **PCR or antigen** test result is negative, then the last day is Thursday, the 16th.

Quarantine of Household Contacts with Ongoing Exposure

- If a household member has completed 10 days of isolation but still has symptoms, can I start my quarantine or do I need to wait until symptoms are completely gone?
 - As long as the case has been fever-free without using fever-reducing medicine for 24 hours and there has been an improvement in symptoms, the household members can begin their quarantine.
 - If symptoms have not yet improved, household members need to wait to begin their quarantine.

COVID-19 Vaccination

COVID-19 Vaccine Quick Tips

New

- The COVID-19 vaccine is safe, highly effective against serious illness, and may prevent you from being infected with COVID-19.
- A person cannot get COVID-19 from COVID-19 vaccines.
- Because there still may be a chance you can become infected and spread the virus to others once you've gotten any COVID-19 vaccine, RIDOH recommends that everyone wear a mask indoors in Pre K-12 settings regardless of vaccination status.
 - Public K-12 schools are required to have a universal indoor masking policy in place for the start of the 2021-22 academic year.
- Please visit RIDOH's website for other Frequently Asked Questions about the Vaccine [COVID-19 Vaccine FAQs | RI COVID-19 Information Portal](#)

10 Reasons Why it's Important for School Aged Children to Get Vaccinated

- Kids will be exposed to COVID-19 at some point if they haven't been already. COVID-19 vaccines help prevent kids from getting very sick, long-term complications, and death.
- Getting kids vaccinated helps protect everyone.
- Vaccines are predictable. COVID-19 is not.
- COVID-19 vaccines are safe.
- The side effects from the vaccine will likely be milder for kids than for adults.
- Vaccinated kids who are exposed to COVID-19 are less likely to have symptoms and won't have to quarantine.
- Some schools may require vaccinations to attend or to participate in certain activities.
- Your family will feel more comfortable traveling and visiting with others around the holidays.
- COVID-19 shots often hurt less than the flu shot.
- It's free, fast, and easy to find

Learn about the facts versus myths about pediatric vaccination [here](#).

Everyone Age 16 or Older should get a Booster Dose

New

- Everyone age 16 or older in Rhode Island may register to get a booster dose, regardless of occupation or living situation
 - Six months after the second dose of Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or two months after one dose of J&J (Janssen) vaccine.
 - Immunocompromised people who received a third dose of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine are also eligible for a booster dose six months after that third dose.
- Booster doses help increase the body's ability to fight off infection and reduce the chance of serious illness if you do become infected.
- **Mix and Match Boosters:**
 - Eligible individuals may choose which vaccine they receive as a booster dose.
 - Some people may prefer the vaccine type that they originally received and others, may prefer to get a different booster.
 - CDC's recommendations now allow for this type of mix and match dosing for booster shots.

- **When does a person have immunity after vaccination?**

- You are considered fully vaccinated 14 days after you receive your final dose in any vaccine or vaccine series.
- A booster dose is a dose of vaccine given to someone who has built up protection after vaccination, but that protection is decreasing over time. This is why RIDOH and CDC are now recommending a booster dose for individuals ages 16+ who have received a Pfizer or Moderna vaccine 6 months after their initial series and 2 months after their initial series of J&J.

- **How long does a person have immunity after infection with COVID-19?**

- Current evidence suggests that getting the virus again (reinfection) is uncommon in the 90 days after the first infection with the virus that causes COVID-19.
- The protection someone gains from having an infection (called “natural immunity”) varies depending on the disease, and it varies from person to person. Because this virus is new, we don’t know if natural immunity might last longer than 90 days in certain individuals.

Frequently Asked Questions About Vaccination

New

I'm scheduled to get vaccinated but I'm on isolation. Can I leave isolation to go to my vaccination appointment?

- No. You cannot get your vaccination (dose one, dose two, or booster shot) while in isolation, even if you are asymptomatic. You must **reschedule your appointment** for a time after you have completed isolation.

I got vaccinated for COVID-19 and now I have symptoms. What do I do?

- People are likely to experience symptoms after receiving a COVID-19 vaccine. This means the immune system is working. This is healthy, normal, and expected.
 - You may experience a sore arm, headache, fever, or body aches, but they should go away in a few days.
 - The vaccine will not cause other COVID-19-related symptoms such as congestion, loss of taste or smell, etc.
- If you have any symptoms of COVID-19 following vaccination, stay home, call a healthcare provider, and get tested.

Vaccination FAQs Continued

Updated

- **Can I get vaccinated while in quarantine?**
 - You cannot get your shots while in quarantine. You must reschedule your appointment for a time after you are done with quarantine.
- **If I am fully vaccinated (14 days after the last dose of vaccine), do I need to participate in asymptomatic testing?**
 - Those who are fully vaccinated are exempt from asymptomatic screening testing unless required by RIDOH regulation or employer or school policy.
 - Executive Order [21-112](#) states fully vaccinated individuals who are deemed close contacts are required to test on day five to seven after last exposure.

Exemptions for Fully Vaccinated Individuals

	After COVID-19 vaccination: Presumed immunity 14 days after last vaccine dose
Quarantine for close contacts	Exempt. Test on Day 5 to 7 after exposure. Monitor for symptoms for 14 days after exposure. Wear a mask in public indoor settings until test results are received.
Quarantine recommendations for travel, domestic, or international	Exempt from the recommendations. Test on Day 3 to 5 after travel. Monitor for symptoms for 14 days after return from travel.
Asymptomatic screening	Not required, but may take part if desired
Eligible populations	All fully vaccinated individuals except hospitalized patients and long-term care residents

Previously Infected with COVID-19

Quarantine Exemption for Persons Previously Infected with COVID-19

- If a person has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days, they **do not need to:**
 - Quarantine if identified as a close contact to a case (even if the close contact is a household member);
 - Quarantine after travel; or
 - Participate in asymptomatic screening testing for sports or school. They are exempt from such testing.
- **90-day calculation:**
 - If symptomatic, then start the 90-day count from the day of symptom onset (Day 0).
 - If asymptomatic, then start the 90-day count from the day of specimen collection (Day 0).

Quarantine Exemption if Positive for COVID-19 within 90 Days

	After COVID-19 infection: Presumed immunity for 90 days after infection
Quarantine for close contacts	Exempt. Monitor for symptoms for 14 days after exposure.
Quarantine recommendations for travel (domestic or international)	Exempt. Monitor for symptoms for 14 days after exposure/travel.
Asymptomatic screening	Not recommended within 90 days of infection
Eligible populations	All individuals

Previously Ill with COVID-19-like Symptoms but Not Tested

- **Scenario:** An individual was previously ill with COVID-19-like symptoms but was not tested. Household members were positive. When getting tested for sports, the individual tested positive but stated it was from past infection.
 - Does this individual need to isolate now since there is no record of a positive test result or a probable report to the school nurse?
 - Assessed on a case-by-case basis in consultation with RIDOH.
- Avoid this situation by getting tested when you have symptoms of COVID-19.
- Individuals who were previously ill with COVID-19-like symptoms but were not tested, would not qualify for the 90-day quarantine exemption.

Symptomatic Within 90 Days of Testing Positive for COVID-19

- For persons who develop **new symptoms consistent with COVID-19** within 90 days after COVID-19 infection, get a medical evaluation by a professional healthcare provider who can:
 - Evaluate for other possible diagnoses; and
 - Evaluate for possible exposure to COVID-19 in the past 14 days (e.g., travel, large gatherings, or events, household or other close contacts with suspected or confirmed COVID-19, occupational risk/healthcare workers, public safety, and recent workplace cases).
- If no other plausible diagnosis by a healthcare provider, the recommendations may include treating it as a new COVID-19 infection, isolating the symptomatic person, and quarantining close contacts.

Mask Mandate

Statewide Masking Law for Public K-12 Schools

- As of August 19, 2021, via [Executive Order](#) and [State Regulation](#) all public K-12 schools are required to have a universal indoor mask requirement in place at the start of the 2021-2022 academic year.
 - Schools without a requirement in place must follow the [RIDOH Policy](#) to establish one.
- The State is requiring that schools ensure all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools wear a mask indoors, even fully vaccinated people.
- Masks should be worn in all K-12 facilities at all times, regardless of whether school is in session, including for
 - School committee meetings; and
 - Professional days when students are not present.

Statewide Masking Law for Indoor Establishments

Effective December 20, all Rhode Island organizations **must** require people to wear masks indoors or, under certain conditions, require proof of vaccination. Organizations must post signage and enforce the requirements.

Indoor Public-Facing - 250+

Indoor public venues with capacity of 250 or more people must

- ✓ Require everyone to wear masks indoors;
- ✓ Post signage about mask requirements; and
- ✓ Enforce the mask policy.

Indoor Public-Facing - Less Than 250

Indoor public venues with capacity of less than 250 people must

- ✓ Require everyone to wear masks indoors unless they're fully vaccinated;
- ✓ Post signage about mask and/or vaccination requirements; and
- ✓ Enforce the mask and/or vaccination policy.

Office-based/Private/Public Employers

Office-based and other public and private employers must

- ✓ Require everyone to wear masks indoors unless they're fully vaccinated;
- ✓ Post signage about mask and/or vaccination requirements; and
- ✓ Enforce the mask and/or vaccination policy.

Testing for COVID-19

Tips for a Successful School-based Testing Program

MAXIMIZE PARTICIPATION

Educate families and staff about the importance of testing

- Distribute information materials of test, internal communications, playbooks, etc.

Be proactive with community messaging

- Share information about your testing plan and why it is important with your students and families on a regular basis.
- Consider incentives to encourage people to opt in for testing.

PREPARE

Educate multiple staff members on process

- What if a team member is out/unavailable for a testing event?

Walk through process with all involved staff prior to testing day.

- Check PPE, testing materials. Does everyone understand protocols?

Time Management Plan

- Rehearse some contingencies- late arrivals, technical challenges, PPE changes
- Tools to mark, time antigen tests

TESTING DAY

Ensure staff and students adhere to health and safety protocols (especially in a centralized testing space)

Improvise as problems arise

- Did we miss the window of time to read an accurate result?

Designate a staff member responsible for results monitoring in real time, and reporting to RIDOH

- Antigen tests– report to RIDOH
- Track test numbers and results

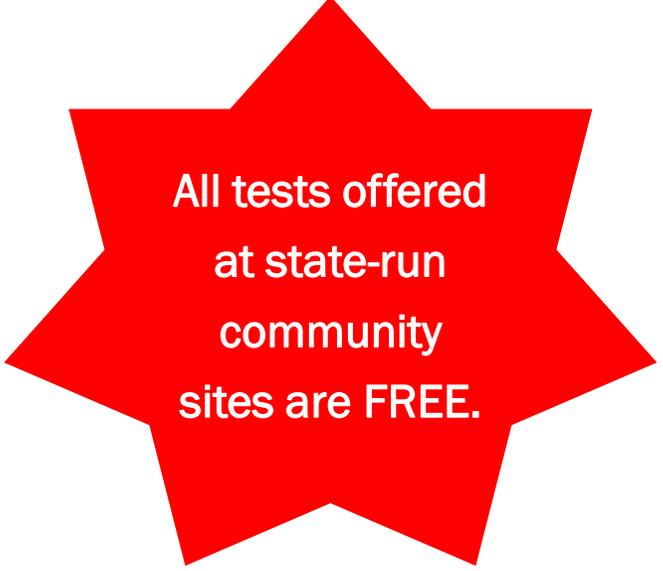
K-12 COVID-19 Test Scheduling Service

Schedule online at portal.ri.gov or call 844-857-1814.

- Hours as of October 26
 - Weekdays, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
 - Weekends, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Who can be scheduled for a test through this service?

- Anyone associated with Pre K-12 (students, staff, coaches, etc.) and child care who is
 - Symptomatic; or
 - A close contact of a person who tested positive for COVID-19; or
 - A classmate of a person who tested positive for COVID-19.



All tests offered
at state-run
community
sites are FREE.

Find a Test site near you here:

docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ZPU7c3QYweLDNa2TyCng_L5TC33CT_4xJrG_El_QrxSU/edit#gid=0

How Can I Access Test Results?

- If you were recently tested for COVID-19 in the State of Rhode Island, you can access a record of your test result at portal.ri.gov/results.
- What you must have to access your test results
 - Name (**as provided** to the appointment line or portal)
 - Date of birth; and
 - Date of testing appointment.
- ***Note: You need to include a valid cell phone number or email address when you schedule the appointment in order to access results in the portal.***
- The [COVID-19 Test Result Portal User Guide](#) is available if you need assistance.

Which Type of Test Is Recommended in Each Scenario?

Scenario	Type of Negative Test Result Needed
Individual who has symptoms of COVID-19 and would like to return to school after illness	PCR
Unvaccinated close contact shortening quarantine	PCR or antigen
Unvaccinated traveler shortening quarantine	PCR or antigen

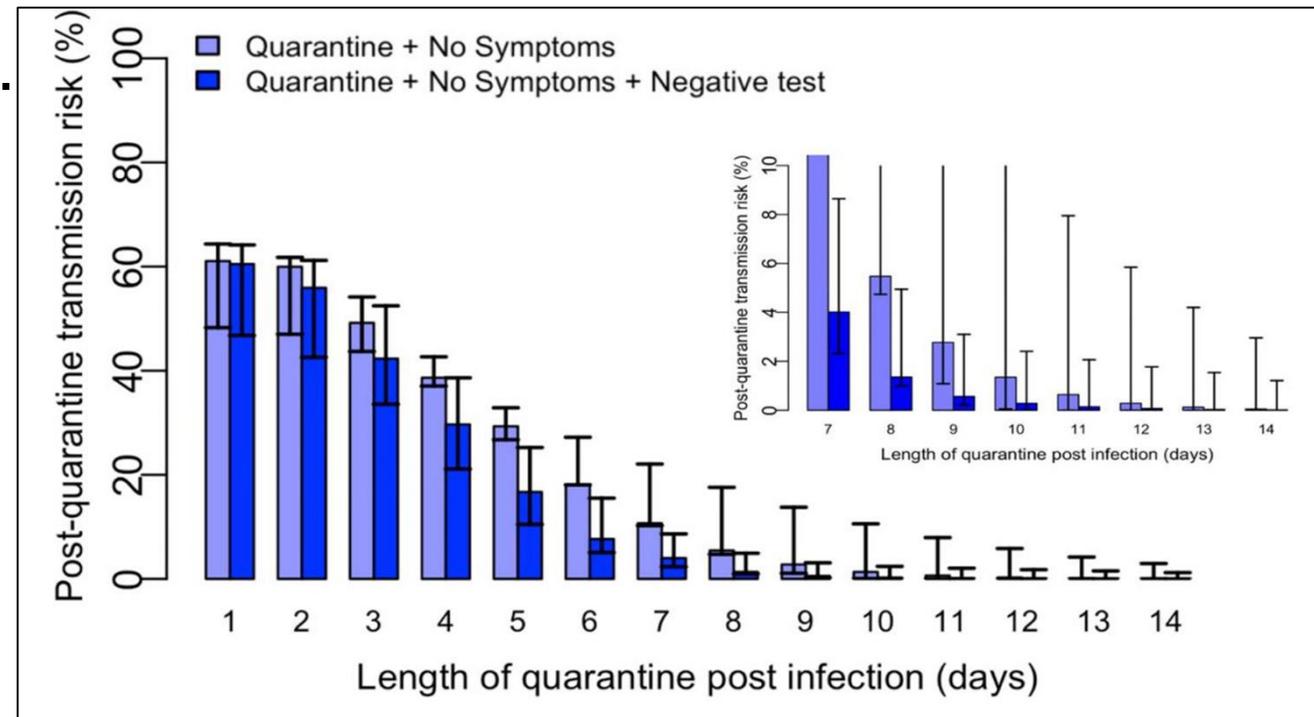
CDC Rationale for Shortened Quarantine Options

- **10-Day Quarantine without testing**

- The post-quarantine transmission risk is approximately 1% (upper limit of 10%).
- A negative test result at day 10 reduces the risk to approximately 0.3%.

- **7-Day Quarantine with negative test result on day 5**

- The post-quarantine transmission risk is approximately 5%, (upper limit of about 12%).



School May Choose Antigen or PCR for Day 5 test

Estimated residual post-quarantine transmission risk...

Planned day after which quarantine is completed and can be discontinued	Residual post-quarantine transmission risk (%) with and without diagnostic testing of a specimen within 48 hours before time of planned discontinuation of quarantine					
	No testing		RT-PCR testing		Antigen testing	
	Median	Range	Median	Range	Median	Range
7	10.7	10.3-22.1	4.0	2.3-8.6	5.5	3.1-11.9
10	1.4	0.1-10.6	0.3	0.0-2.4	1.1	0.1-9.5
14	0.1	0.0-3.0	0.0	0.0-1.2	0.1	0.0-2.9

Self-tests



Use of COVID-19 Self-Tests

Self-tests should be used to help assess and reduce risk rather than as tools to diagnose COVID-19.

- Self-tests may be useful [in certain scenarios](#), such as
 - Before indoor gatherings, particularly with those at higher risk of illness;
 - When symptomatic and unable to get to a test site;
 - When possibly exposed to someone positive for COVID-19 and they're unable to get to a test site; and
 - Before and after domestic travel if documentation of a negative test result is not required.
- Self-tests [may NOT be used](#)
 - To shorten quarantine to 7 days for unvaccinated close contacts; or
 - To meet international travel requirements to and/or from the US:
 - For outbound travel, check the destination country's requirements.
 - Self-tests are only permitted for travel into the US [only](#) if the test has an online digital component where the swab is monitored and the test kit is monitored while awaiting and interpreting the result.

Responding to Self-Test Results

- If your self-test result is **positive**, you [should](#)
 - Self-isolate for 10 days (from symptom onset date if symptomatic/from test date if asymptomatic);
 - If symptomatic, you may consider getting a lab-processed PCR test in order to provide proof of infection and date. Otherwise, you may risk testing positive for weeks afterwards.
 - Tell your close contacts that they should get tested; and
 - Inform your healthcare provider about your positive test result and discuss treatment and emergency signs or symptoms.
 - Call 911 or go to the nearest hospital if you think you are having a medical emergency.
 - If you think your positive test result may be incorrect, you could get a follow-up test at a State-run test site, pharmacy, or healthcare provider.
- If your self-test result is **negative and you have symptoms**, you [should](#) get tested again to make sure you're not infected.
 - RIDOH recommends getting tested at a State-run test site, pharmacy, or healthcare provider.
 - CDC recommends using another self-test within a few days, with at least 24 hours between tests.

New Policy for Reporting and Follow-up of Self-Test Results

RIDOH has an updated policy for self-tests: Self-test results are not to be reported to RIDOH, and RIDOH will not conduct case investigation or contact tracing for positive results.

- RIDOH is developing a self-test reporting portal, however people are [not required](#) to report COVID-19 self-test results to RIDOH.
- RIDOH will not conduct case investigation and contact tracing based on self-reported positive results from self-tests.
- RIDOH cannot provide services, supports, or referrals for individuals who need assistance during isolation or quarantine based on a self-test result.
- RIDOH cannot provide a letter for missed work or school due to isolation based on a positive self-test result.
 - If a letter is required, get another test at a testing site or by a healthcare provider.
- RIDOH cannot provide documentation of infection within the past 90 days based on a positive self-test result.

Confirming a Positive Antigen Test Result



Asymptomatic Antigen Positive Test

- Asymptomatic individual with a positive antigen test
 - What does the individual do?
 - Isolate; get a PCR test at a test site.
 - What do the household members do?
 - Avoid contact with the positive household member as much as possible while waiting for test results.
 - Continue normal activities outside the home.
 - What does the school do?
 - Exclude positive individual from school while waiting for test results.
 - May gather list of close contacts before PCR test results are in, but DO NOT quarantine school contacts.

Asymptomatic Antigen Positive Test Followed by a Negative lab processed PCR

- Asymptomatic individual with a positive antigen test, followed by negative PCR
 - What does the individual do now?
 - End isolation and resume normal activities.
 - What do the household members do now?
 - Resume interactions with the household member who had the positive antigen test.
 - What does the school do?
 - If the school gathered a list of close contacts in advance of test results, throw the list away.

Asymptomatic Antigen Positive Test Followed by a Positive PCR

- Asymptomatic individual with a positive antigen test, followed by positive PCR
 - What does the individual do now?
 - Completes 10 days of isolation.
 - What do the household members do now?
 - Complete quarantine according to the guidance for household members.
 - What does the school do?
 - Excludes the positive individual from school until they are released from isolation.
 - Excludes household members from school until end of quarantine.
 - Identifies close contacts in the school setting and excludes from school for the duration of quarantine.

Symptomatic Antigen with Positive Result

- Symptomatic individual with a positive antigen test result
 - What does the individual do?
 - Completes 10 day isolation.
 - What do the household members do?
 - Complete quarantine according to the guidance for household members.
 - What does the school do?
 - Excludes the student from school until the end of isolation.
 - Excludes household members from school until the end of quarantine.
 - Identifies close contacts in the school setting and excludes from school for the duration of quarantine.

Symptomatic Antigen Positive Test Followed by a Negative PCR

- Symptomatic individual with positive antigen test, followed by negative PCR.
 - What does the student do now?
 - Finish isolation period of 10 days since initial positive test.
 - What do the household members do now?
 - Complete quarantine for household members and get tested.
 - What does the school do?
 - Excludes the student from school until the end of isolation.
 - Excludes siblings from school until the end of quarantine.
 - Notifies close contacts about exposure and exclude from school until the end of quarantine.

Symptomatic or Asymptomatic Antigen Positive Test Followed by a Positive PCR

- Asymptomatic or symptomatic student with positive antigen test, followed by a positive PCR
 - What does the student do now?
 - Complete 10 days of isolation.
 - What do the household members do now?
 - Complete quarantine for household members and get tested.
 - What does the school do?
 - Exclude the student from school until the end of isolation.
 - Exclude siblings from school until the end of quarantine.
 - Notify close contacts about exposure and exclude from school until the end of quarantine.

Asymptomatic or Symptomatic Antigen Positive Test Without a Follow-up PCR

Process is the same as positive PCR

- Asymptomatic or symptomatic individual with positive antigen test, with no follow-up PCR
 - What does the student do now?
 - Complete 10 days of isolation.
 - What do the household members do now?
 - Complete quarantine according to the guidance for household members.
 - What does the school do?
 - Excludes the student from school until the end of isolation.
 - Excludes household members from school until the end of quarantine.
 - Notifies close contacts about exposure and excludes from school until the end of quarantine.

Reporting Antigen Test Results for Academic Year 2021-22

- Report the results of all Point of Care (POC) or antigen tests (enter positive, negative, and invalid results for all) using the RIDOH Point of Care Results Reporting Portal at portal.ri.gov/reportcovidresult. Do not enter self-tests.
- Report all testing and consent-related information on a weekly basis to RIDOH POCs: ridoh.covid19K12testing@health.ri.gov and back2school@ride.ri.gov

When entering results in the portal for an individual with a positive antigen test result, select *Antigen Positive—Pending PCR* for test type.

Bus Guidance



Executive Order Update

- Close contacts on a school bus **do not** need to quarantine if all of the following are true:
 - Windows are open at all times.
 - At least two windows on opposite sides of the bus should be open.
 - RIDOH recommends that at least one of the open windows should be in the front and at least one in the middle of the bus. Ideally, one of the open windows is located between the midpoint and the third window from the back. The open windows shouldn't be in the back of the bus.
 - The windows at the very back of the bus shouldn't be opened because it might pull exhaust fumes into the bus.
 - Masks are worn at all times.
 - One adult is present on the bus to confirm compliance with masking and open windows in addition to the driver.

Bus Quarantine Guidance—Student Tests Positive

- Close contacts are those who sat within six feet of the infected person.
- If it is a small bus, then call RIDOH for consult.
- If the ride is shorter than 15 minutes, evaluate on a case-by-case basis:
 - May have close contact getting on/off the bus.
 - May be a long ride that day because of traffic or an accident.

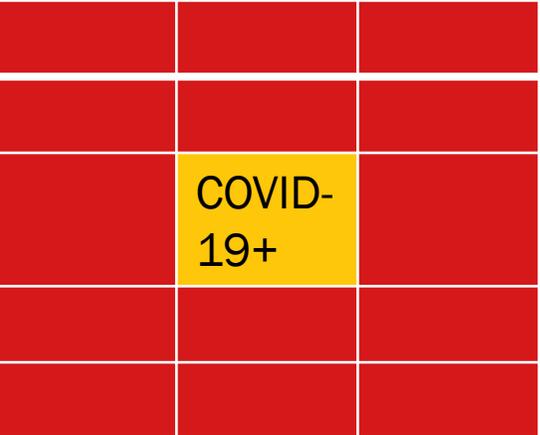
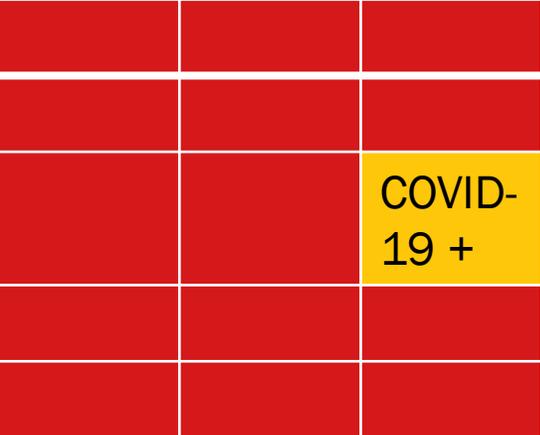
Note: Disregard this guidance if the close contacts meet the criteria for exemption.

Bus Quarantine Guidance

Scenario #1



Scenario #2



Key:

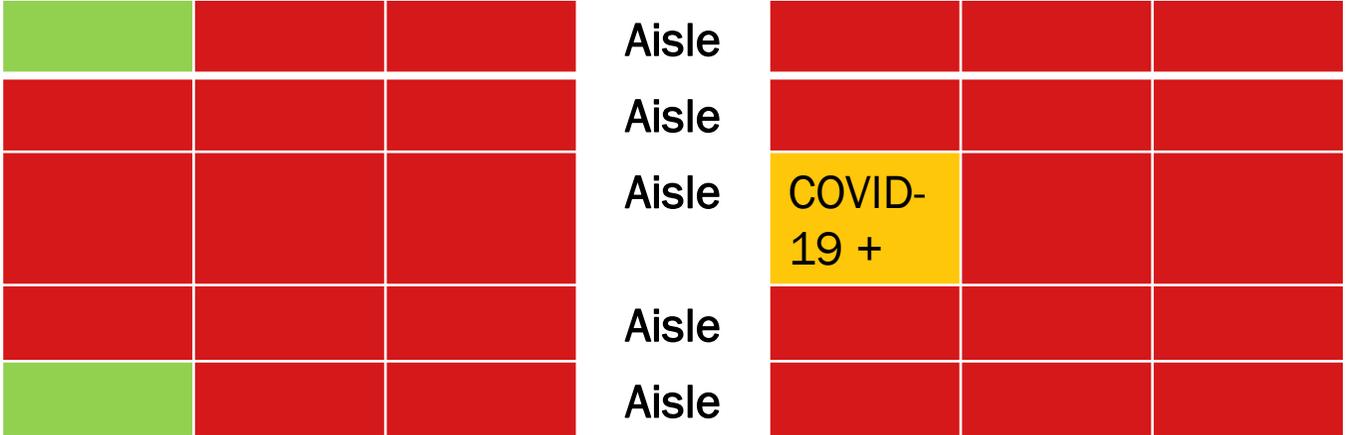
- Red=quarantine
- Yellow=COVID positive individual
- Green=no quarantine

Bus Quarantine Guidance-continued

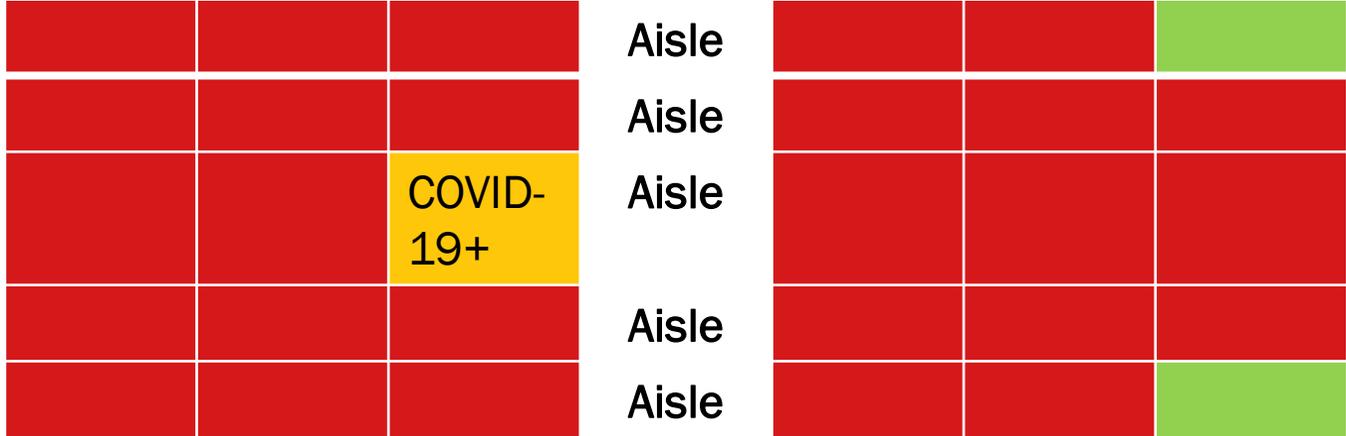
Key:

- Red=quarantine
- Yellow=COVID positive individual
- Green=no quarantine

Scenario #3

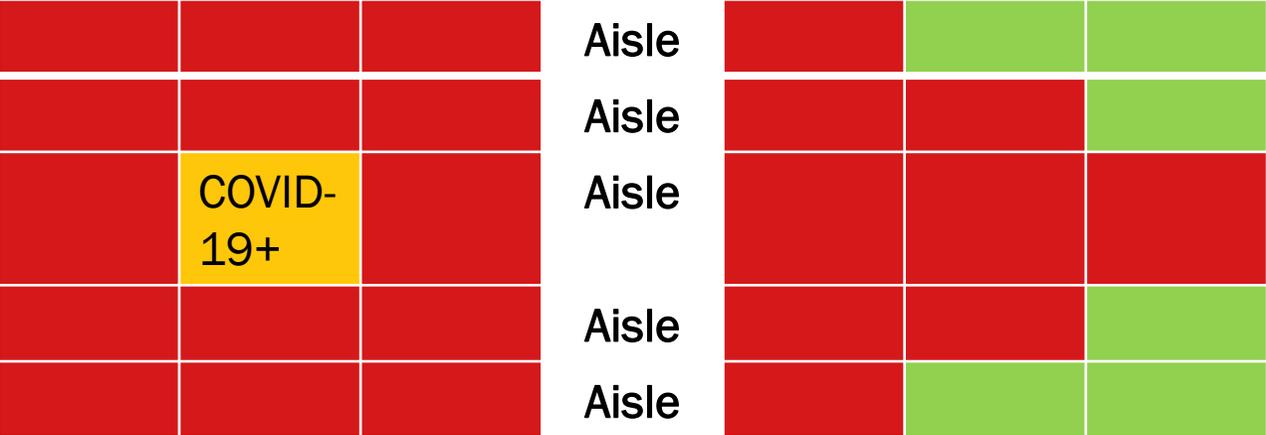


Scenario #4

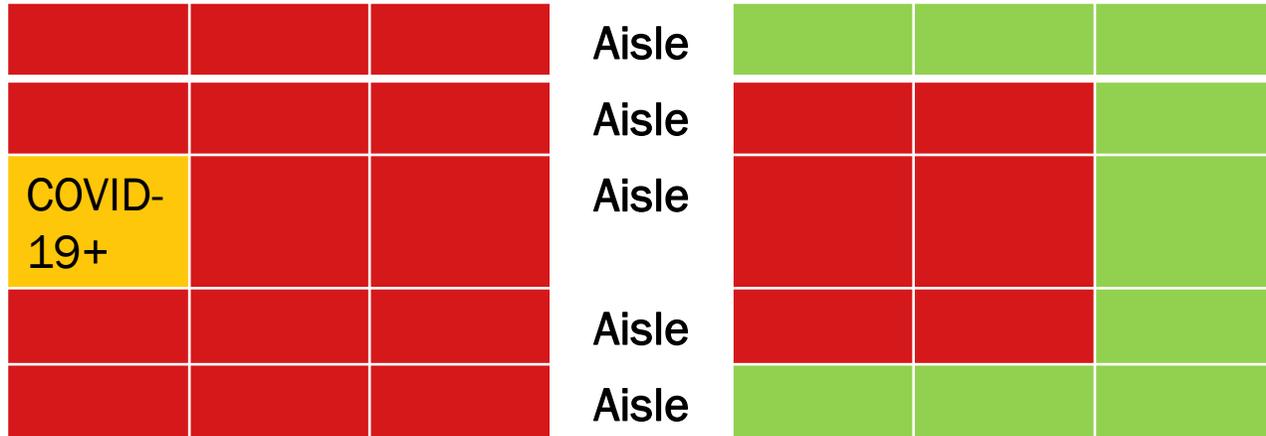


Bus Quarantine Guidance-continued

Scenario #5



Scenario #6

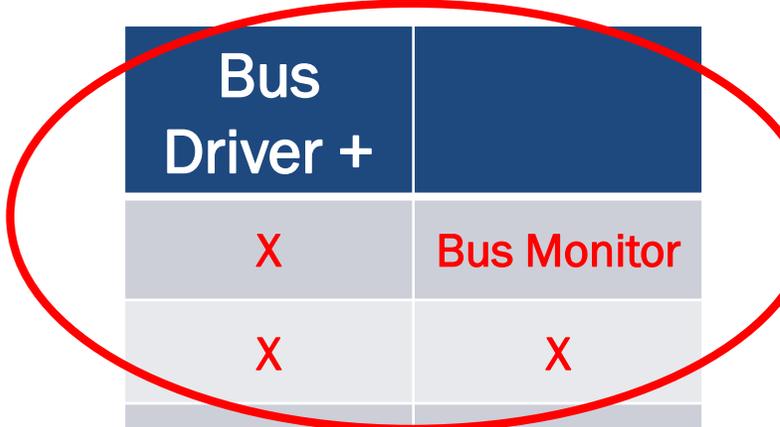


Key:

- Red=quarantine
- Yellow=COVID positive individual
- Green=no quarantine

Bus Quarantine Guidance—Driver Tests Positive

- What happens if a bus driver tests positive for COVID-19?
 - Close contacts are those who sat within two rows of the driver. Quarantine is for those who sat two rows behind on both sides of the aisle.
 - Make sure that bus seating charts are up to date and easily accessible for RIDOH CI/CT purposes.
 - All passengers on the bus would need to quarantine if a seating chart is not available.



Bus Driver +	
X	Bus Monitor
X	X
X	X
X	X
X	X
X	X
X	X

Note: Disregard this guidance if the close contacts meet the criteria for exemption.

School Events Guidance

Planning Pre K-12 School Events

Schools must follow all current State requirements for events that are held indoors. Please refer to the [latest state requirements](#) found here

- All attendees should be pre-screened for COVID-19 symptoms, at the door, before entry to the event.
- Schools are encouraged to use touchless registration and pre-screening through digital ticket sales and pre-screening programs.
- Schools should plan for conveniently placed sanitation stations (e.g., at entry/exit points, high-touch areas, and/or each table).
- Testing prior to the event is strongly recommended. Schools may choose to accept a PCR test result, a rapid antigen test result, or both types equally. Proof of vaccination is acceptable instead of testing.
- Take it outside: As long as weather permits, schools should plan for events to take place outdoors as much as possible.

Guidance for Sports

Sports Come With an Inherent Risk of Exposure to COVID-19

- Parents, students, and coaches should understand the risk
- High contact sports, like wrestling, hockey, soccer, and football confer a higher risk for transmission.
- Indoor sports confer a higher risk of transmission than outdoor sports.
 - Be prepared to quarantine
 - Distance learning for students
 - Parents may miss work if minor is on quarantine
 - Missing other games and events

Best Practices in Sports

- Maintain consistent isolation/quarantine practices throughout the season.
 - RIDOH will NOT make exceptions for players to be exempt from isolation/quarantine during championship games.
- Ensure all involved individuals (e.g., athletes, parents, coaches, etc.) understand procedures for isolation and quarantine.
- Maintain consistent and efficient procedures; do not implement exceptions.
- Encourage vaccination as the best measure to combat COVID-19.
- Utilize a test to play strategy for higher risk sports such as wrestling, hockey, soccer and football.

Guidance for Keeping Teams Safe

- Get vaccinated and when eligible get booster shots!
- Follow all the school-specific masking protocols.
- Social distance whenever possible (i.e. spread out on the bench; practice in pods).
- Ask players to screen for symptoms before participating in practice/game.
- They should not participate if
 - They have **any** symptoms of COVID-19 (even if it's only one symptom);
 - They are only mildly ill, and they feel well enough to play; or
 - They think their symptoms are due to allergies.
- There should be no penalty for missing practice/games if they are not feeling well.
- Recommend routine asymptomatic testing unless a player has tested positive in the past 90 days.

What to Expect as an Athletic Director

Updated

- RIDOH will interview the person or parent or guardian of the person who has COVID-19 and obtain the name and contact information for the Athletic Director.
- RIDOH will call the Athletic Director, state that an individual on the team is positive for COVID-19 and request that the Athletic Director:
 - Send a list of exposed contacts with player vaccination status to RIDOH quickly;
 - Notify the close contacts that they need to stay home while awaiting a call from RIDOH; and
 - Provide RIDOH with the name and phone number of the opposing team's Athletic Director if the COVID-19 positive individual played in a game while infectious. RIDOH will contact the opposing team and recommend testing. The opposing team will no longer need to quarantine.

Quarantine Protocols for All Sports

Updated

- Athletic Director will work with the coach to determine who on the team needs to quarantine. Individuals excluded from quarantine include those who
 - Did not attend practice/game when exposure occurred;
 - Were not in the same pod as the infected individual (if practicing in pods);
 - Had COVID-19 within the last 90 days; or
 - Have been fully vaccinated.
- Opposing teams do NOT need to quarantine. RIDOH will request that the coach of the opposing team send a letter to his/her team notifying them of the exposure and recommending testing.

Symptom Screening in Sports

- All players, staff, coaches, officials, volunteers, and spectators should be screened for symptoms related to COVID-19 before beginning each activity or before entry into an indoor sports facility.
 - For students, this screening should be done in addition to any screening that was conducted at the beginning of the school day.
 - Any person showing signs of illness and any person who has been exposed to a person with COVID-19 must be excluded from participating/attending.

Testing in Sports

- **Test prior to playing.**
 - If schools require athletes to get tested prior to the beginning of the season, individuals who have had COVID-19 within the last 90 days and those who are fully vaccinated should be exempt but are permitted to take part in testing if desired.
 - Documentation of vaccination or a positive COVID-19 test result within the last 90 days should be required instead.
 - RIDOH does not recommend testing within 90 days of having COVID-19 because the test result may remain positive for weeks/months after the initial positive test result, even though they are no longer contagious.
 - If an individual who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 within the past 90 days becomes symptomatic, refer to a healthcare provider for evaluation.

Person Waiting For Test Results in Sports

When a person is symptomatic and waiting for test results for COVID-19 or is a close contact waiting for test results:

- Coaches, staff, athletes, officials, and spectators should not attend games, practices, or any related sports activities while waiting for COVID-19 test results if they are symptomatic or if they are a close contact being tested during quarantine.
- Sports organizations and teams are strongly encouraged by RIDOH to establish strict disciplinary policies to penalize persons who violate this provision.
- This provision does not apply to coaches, staff, athletes, officials, and spectators who undergo regular asymptomatic screening testing at their workplace (e.g., employees of congregate care facilities).

Masking in Sports

- **Masking**– Everyone is required to wear masks (no gaiters/bandanas) which completely cover the nose and mouth when indoors:
 - Athletes
 - Coaches
 - Officials
 - Spectators
 - Essential/Non-essential staff
- Masks must be worn by everyone in all spaces including, but not limited to:
 - Athletic facilities
 - Training rooms
 - Locker rooms

Physical Distancing in Sports

- At least three feet of physical distancing should be maintained between all players, coaches, and participants during practices and active play, when possible.
- When players, coaches, and participants are not engaged in active play (e.g., on the bench or on the sideline), a physical distance of three feet should be maintained.
- A minimum of six feet of physical distancing should be maintained between teams and any other individuals or groups within a facility.

Quarantine Policy for Sports

- All organizations, leagues, and participants are strongly encouraged to fully cooperate and follow the guidance provided by RIDOH regarding contact tracing and the need to quarantine.
- Organizations and leagues are strongly encouraged to adopt rules regarding the need for all participants to follow RIDOH quarantine requirements.

Sports—Missing Practice/Games/Tryouts Because Symptomatic

- Athletes must not attend practices, games, or tryouts if they have *any* symptoms of COVID-19, even if the symptom(s) is mild and they feel well enough to play.
 - Athletes will not be penalized for missing tryouts, practices, or games due to COVID-19 symptoms.
 - Tryouts must be extended for symptomatic athletes in accordance with athletic department rules.

Protocols for Schools

Protocol for a Symptomatic Individual Who Requires Being Sent Home

Situation	Isolation and quarantine protocol	Recommended testing protocol	Requirement to return
<p>Staff or student has symptom(s) of COVID-19 which requires being sent home according to school policy</p>	<p>Symptomatic individual is isolated, sent home, and gets tested.</p> <p>Household contacts and school close contacts do NOT need to quarantine while waiting for test results.</p>	<p>Advise symptomatic individual to seek medical advice and get a lab-processed PCR test.</p> <p><i>RIDOH may recommend testing for others in certain situations.</i></p>	<p>Attestation that confirms one of the following (parent/guardian attests if a minor)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tested negative PCR and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has been fever free for 24 hours without use of fever-reducing medicine and symptoms improved (back to usual health). • Tested positive PCR or antigen and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has met RIDOH guidelines for ending isolation. • Not tested <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has met the RIDOH guidelines for ending isolation. • *Testing is still recommended for those who think their symptom is due to an underlying illness.

Protocol for a Confirmed Case

Situation	Isolation and quarantine protocol	Recommended testing protocol	Requirement to return
<p>Staff or student tests positive</p>	<p>Person testing positive is isolated per CDC/RIDOH guidelines</p> <p>Close contacts are quarantined per CDC/RIDOH guidelines</p>	<p>Close contacts in quarantine should self-monitor for symptoms and seek medical advice as needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fully vaccinated close contacts do not need to quarantine but must get tested three to five days after the exposure and wear a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days or until they get a negative test result. Unvaccinated close contacts must get tested immediately following the exposure and again five to seven days after the exposure. Individuals who have tested positive in the past 90 days do not need to quarantine and should not get tested. 	<p>Individuals must meet the CDC/RIDOH guidelines for ending isolation:</p> <p>Symptomatic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicine; and Symptoms have improved; and 10 days since symptoms first appeared (20 days if severely immunocompromised). <p>Asymptomatic :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 days since date of specimen collection (20 days if severely immunocompromised).

Protocol- Close Contact of a Case

Updated

Situation	Isolation and quarantine protocol	Recommended testing protocol	Requirement to return
Staff or student is a close contact of a confirmed case	<p>A close contact is quarantined per CDC/RIDOH guidelines</p> <p>If the close contact <u>is not fully vaccinated</u> and remains in the same household as the case, the contact must quarantine during the case's isolation period (10 days) and then quarantine per CDC/RIDOH guidelines.</p>	<p>Close contacts in quarantine should self-monitor for symptoms for 14 days from last exposure and seek medical advice as needed.</p> <p>All close contacts are required to get tested once they're identified as a close contact, regardless of vaccination status.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unvaccinated individuals must get tested immediately following the exposure and again five to seven days after being identified as a close contact.• Fully vaccinated individuals must get tested three to five days after they're identified as a close contact.	<p>A close contact must meet the CDC/RIDOH guidelines for ending quarantine before returning to school:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remain asymptomatic• Complete one of the quarantine options:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 14 days• 10 days• Seven days with a negative PCR or antigen test result from day 5 or later.• If choosing a seven- or 10- day quarantine option, continue to monitor for symptoms for 14 days from the last exposure. <p>self-test may not be used.</p>

Protocol Summary

	Meets symptomatic criteria	Person tests positive with PCR or antigen test	Person tests negative with a PCR test
Isolation and Quarantine Guidance	Isolate. Get medical advice. Test. If not tested/tests neg <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fever free for 24 hours; and Symptoms improved (back to usual health). 	Isolate for 10 days from symptom onset or 10 days from test if asymptomatic; and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fever free 24 hours; and Symptoms improved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fever free 24 hours; and Symptoms improved (back to usual health).
Return to school	Parent/guardian attestation	Parent/guardian attestation	Parent/guardian attestation
Close Contacts	No action	Follow RIDOH guidance for isolation.	No action

Travel Guidance



- **Travel Quarantine:** While there is no law requiring quarantine after travel, RIDOH strongly recommends that schools following CDC guidance on travel quarantine as the best public health practice (details on the next slide).
 - For more information on these recommendations please visit [Travel Information for Residents and Visitors | RI COVID-19 Information Portal](#).
- The State strongly recommends a test 3 to 5 days after travel.
- Schools may choose to have a policy requiring quarantine after travel as the best public health practice for their students and staff for unvaccinated individuals.

Appendix

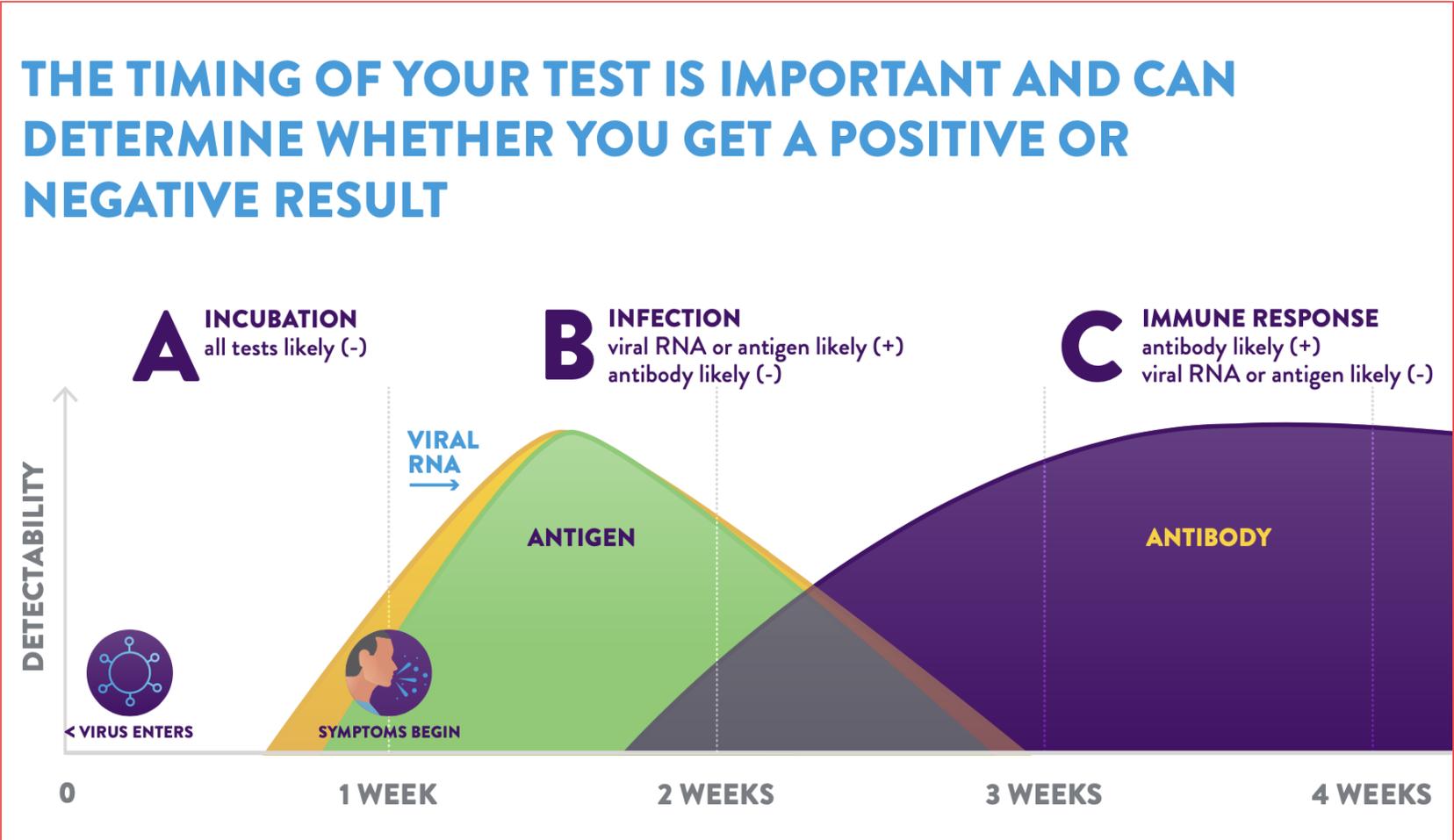


Overview: Antigen Tests Compared to PCR Tests

Antigen Tests: Detect COVID-19 antigens which appear in the early part of the disease when people are most infectious. *(Levels of antigens shown in green to the left.)*

PCR Tests: Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests detect the presence of the COVID-19 virus itself (and not the antigen response). PCR tests should be sent to a laboratory for analysis. *(Levels of viral RNA shown in yellow and green to the left.)*

Key difference: PCR tests can detect infections earlier and later than antigen tests. Antigen tests are good at identifying positive cases when they are most infectious and likely to spread the virus.



Reference Abbott #Knowthecurves

Glossary



Glossary

Term**Definition**

Close contact

Being within six feet of an infected person (with or without a face mask) for a total of 15 minutes, in a 24-hour period **or** having unprotected direct contact with secretions or excretions of a person with confirmed COVID-19 during the infectious period in either an indoor or outdoor setting.

Community transmission

Occurs when individuals acquire COVID-19 through contact with someone in their local community, rather than through travel to an affected location.

Confirmed case

A person who has tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 infection (the virus that causes COVID-19).

Contact tracing

Process of identifying individuals who have had close contact (see definition above) with someone infected with COVID-19.

Consistent/Stable Group

A consistent group of students and staff who interacts with each other but not with members of other groups on a regular basis. Groups should be as small as possible, with maximum numbers outlined in the different reopening scenarios. When in a stable group, each group must physically distance themselves from each other and from other consistent groups.

Glossary

Term

Definition

COVID-19

Abbreviation for the disease caused by the novel coronavirus SARS CoV-2.

Incubation period

The time between exposure to an infection and the appearance of first symptoms. The virus that causes COVID-19 has an incubation period of two to 14 days.

Infectious period
(asymptomatic
cases)

Two days prior to testing (the date of the swabbing was conducted) until CDC criteria to discontinue isolation are met.

Infectious period
(symptomatic
cases)

Two days before symptom onset until CDC criteria to discontinue isolation are met.

Isolation

Process of separating individuals who are infected with COVID-19 from others. Isolation lasts a minimum of:

- 10 days from symptom onset if symptomatic.
- 10 days from the date of specimen collection (test) if asymptomatic.
- 20 days for individuals with severely immunocompromising conditions.

Glossary

Term	Definition
Protocol	Recommended actions to follow if a probable or confirmed case of COVID-19 occurs.
Quarantine	Process of separating and restricting the movement of individuals who were in close contact with someone who tested positive or had symptoms of COVID-19. Persons in quarantine should self-monitor for 14 days for symptoms and seek medical advice as needed. RIDOH recommends all close contacts of people with COVID-19 get tested on day 5 of quarantine or later.
RIDE	Rhode Island Department of Education
RIDOH	Rhode Island Department of Health
Screening	Assessing individuals for symptoms of COVID-19 verbally or via self/parent attestation. Temperature checks may be performed by the school if desired.
Symptomatic individual	A person who is experiencing one or more of the symptoms of COVID-19 as defined in CDC guidelines .
Testing	Three types of tests are available to detect COVID-19: viral tests, antigen tests, and antibody tests. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Viral tests and antigen tests indicate if you have a current infection For viral tests there are two types: molecular tests, often referred to as PCR tests, and antigen tests• Antibody tests indicate a previous infection.