



Barrington Public Schools

Empowering All Students to Excel

Dear Families and Staff,

As you may be aware, the Rhode Island Department of Health provided districts with updated guidance on testing, quarantine, and bus contact tracing this week. Our committee evaluated the guidance and will institute the protocols below. As guidance changes, we will continue to provide you with updates. Please reach out to your school nurse or principal if you have questions relative to your children.

Barrington COVID Updated Protocol Proposals

Symptomatic Testing

RIDOH has announced that LEAs/schools may choose from the following options when staff and/or students are sick:

- **Option A:** (Current recommendation) Maintain current recommendation to stay home and/or isolate and get tested if an individual has one COVID-19 symptom; or
- **Option B:** Stay home and/or isolate and get tested if an individual has one major or two minor COVID-19 symptoms (i.e., “probable case” clinical criteria – the same criteria as last year)

After careful consideration of the options available, impact on families, students, and staff, as well as details from our most recent cases, **Barrington Public Schools has opted for Option B, with BPS adding an additional layer of protection outlined below.**

Barrington Public Schools requires that individuals stay home and/or isolate and get tested if an individual has one major (see red box below), or two minor (see yellow box below) COVID-19 symptoms (i.e., “probable case” clinical criteria – the same criteria as last year), or symptoms that prevent them from fully functioning in the day as outlined in our typical health (non-COVID) guidance [School Health Handbook](#).

BPS requires anyone attending or remaining in school with **one extremely minor symptom listed in this paragraph in bold** that does not impact their ability to engage fully in their day, to take a rapid antigen test at a testing site or in school. **Only the following symptoms are eligible for exemption with testing: typical headache, sniffles, minor congestion, or a runny nose.** ALL other symptoms are not eligible for a student to attend or remain in school. If a child or staff member is ill, they should remain home and follow RIDOH testing and isolation guidance.

If symptoms progress, or if the student presents with additional symptoms, the student must be tested with a rapid antigen test, followed by a PCR, and sent home pending results. **If a parent does not consent to test in school, the student will be sent home without testing and must follow RIDOH guidelines for return to school. If a BPS student or staff has one symptom, with the exception of those listed in the above paragraph, they must stay home and follow RIDOH testing and isolation requirements.**



To the extent possible, we will test following the above criteria; however, in the event of a staffing or testing shortage, there may be times when we have to require students to be tested outside of the school. As always, we highly encourage students and staff to be tested at the K-12 sites when they have symptoms, no matter how minor their symptoms.

Exclusion of Unvaccinated Household Members

Although RIDOH has provided the option for unvaccinated asymptomatic sibling(s)/household member(s) of symptomatic student/staff to no longer be automatically excluded from school while the symptomatic person's test results are pending, due to the higher transmission rates that we are currently experiencing due to close contact transmission, **we have decided to delay the implementation of this full allowance.**

As an alternative, we are requiring those unvaccinated students to stay home while awaiting test results for siblings or household members who are awaiting PCR test results who have **one probable symptom listed on the red chart above** or any **two probable symptoms listed on the yellow chart above.**

Bus Quarantines

In reviewing the number of quarantines due to close contacts on busses, as well as the mitigation factors in place, RIDOH has opted to decrease the number of seats requiring quarantine on school busses. Barrington will adopt these new guidelines moving forward. Any student currently in quarantine due to close contact on a bus, who meets these new criteria, is welcome to return to school once contacted by their principal or school nurse. See charts below:

Bus Quarantine Chart

Key:

X = Positive Student

Yellow Highlight = Greater than 6 feet of distance; No quarantine required

Green Highlight = Less than 6 feet of distance; Quarantine required

						X

			Aisle			
			Aisle			
			Aisle		X	
			Aisle			
			Aisle			

			Aisle			
			Aisle			
			Aisle	X		
			Aisle			
			Aisle			

Additional Notes:

- If only one child is sitting in a seat, that child should be sitting in the window seat (to minimize close contacts)
- If there are two children sitting per seat, they should sit next to each other in the window and middle seats of the “bench” (to minimize close contacts)
- As can be seen from the third diagram (above), a student sitting in the aisle seat who tests positive will have the maximum number of close contacts to be quarantined.
- Bus seating charts should reflect where on each “bench” a specific child is sitting.

Thank you.

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