

REOPENING RI

COVID-19 Information for Schools

What happens when a student or staff member has symptoms associated with COVID-19?

- If a student or staff member has any of the symptoms listed below, they should not come to school.
- If a student or staff member has any of the symptoms listed below while at school, they should be sent home and – if they need to wait for transportation – should be isolated while they wait.
- If a student or staff member reports either one of the first four symptoms (those in the green box) or two more of the other symptoms (those in the yellow box), they should be entered as a probable case into the Probable Reporting Portal by the school user. Except in special circumstances, RIDOH will not begin the case investigation process or contact the school until there is a positive test result.

Cough (new)	If a student or staff member has ANY ONE of these symptoms, they should be isolated and sent home. They need a COVID-19 test.
Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing	
New loss of taste	
New loss of smell	
Fever (temperature higher than 100.4° or feels feverish to the touch)	If a student or staff member has ANY ONE of these symptoms, they should be isolated and sent home. They should remain at home until they have had no fever for 24 hours without the use of a fever-reducing medicine and they are feeling better (symptoms are improved).
Chills	
Muscle or body aches	If a student or staff member has TWO OR MORE of these symptoms, they need a COVID-19 test.
Headache	
Sore throat	
Fatigue	
Congestion or runny nose (new)	
Nausea or vomiting	
Diarrhea	

When can the student or staff member return to school?

If the student or staff member had a COVID-19 test, they can go back to school when they attest that:

1. They have received all COVID-19 test results and they are negative. **AND**
2. They have had no fever for 24 hours without taking fever-reducing medicine. **AND**
3. They feel better and their symptoms are improved.

If the student or staff member did not have a COVID-19 test because they had only one of the symptoms in the yellow box above, they can go back to school when they attest that:

1. They have had no fever for 24 hours without taking fever-reducing medicine. **AND**
2. They feel better and the symptoms are improved.

Attestation can be verbal or written, and a doctor's note is not required.

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COVID-19 Information for Schools (continued)

What if a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19?

A RIDOH Case Investigator will contact the school and school district to inform them of the positive test and to gather information about individuals who might have come into close contact (within six feet for more than 15 minutes) with the person who tested positive. The Case Investigator will ask questions about the stable groups that the child or staff member have been in (e.g. classrooms, after school care, before school care, busing, lunch, athletics, etc.); seating arrangements; activities; and how your school manages pick-up, drop-off, transitions, and bathroom usage.

The student or staff member **will need to stay home in isolation until they attest that they are no longer contagious and they have satisfied the RIDOH isolation instructions, which will also be shared with the school.** Attestation can be verbal or written, and a doctor's note is not required.

RIDOH will provide guidance to school districts and schools on public health measures, including quarantine, isolation, and cleaning. Schools will be asked to implement cleaning measures and ensure that people who have been asked to quarantine do not return to school or work before the end of their quarantine.

RIDOH will provide schools with templates and guidance during the case investigation process for communicating information about positive cases to the wider school community (all parents, staff, and students), as well as separate guidance for students and staff who were not close contacts of the individual who tested positive but who were part of the same classroom. Schools will be expected to communicate with students and families whenever there is a case of COVID-19 in the school. The school should also reinforce RIDOH's direct messaging to students, staffs, and families.

What if another student or staff member is a close contact of someone who has COVID-19?

RIDOH case investigators will work with the individual who tested positive for COVID-19, the school, and the school district to identify school-based close contacts.

Students and staff members who are close contacts will need to quarantine (stay at home) for 14 days after the day they were in close contact with the person with COVID-19.

After being in **quarantine**, the student or staff member can go **back to school when they attest that:**

1. The 14-day quarantine time has ended;
2. They feel good and have no symptoms of COVID-19 listed on the first page, or those symptoms have improved; and
3. If they were tested, they had a negative COVID-19 test result.

Attestation can be verbal or written, and a doctor's note is not required.

Where can I learn more about COVID-19?

RIDOH COVID-19 Education and Childcare

<https://health.ri.gov/covid/educationandchildcare/index.php>

Back 2 School Rhode Island website

<https://www.back2schoolri.com/>

K-12 Playbook

https://reopeningri.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/2020-08-08_K-12-Playbook_edited_v1.pdf?189db0&189db0

Sample Attestation Form

https://www.back2schoolri.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/082620_Sample_Return_After_Illness_Attestation.pdf

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