



Outbreak Response Protocols: Pre K-12

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

Version 6.1 (Updated August 27, 2021)

RHODE
ISLAND

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Summary of Recent Changes to the Playbook



Most Recent Update Is Version
6.1 on August 26, 2021

Summary of Changes to the Playbook

UPDATED

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)

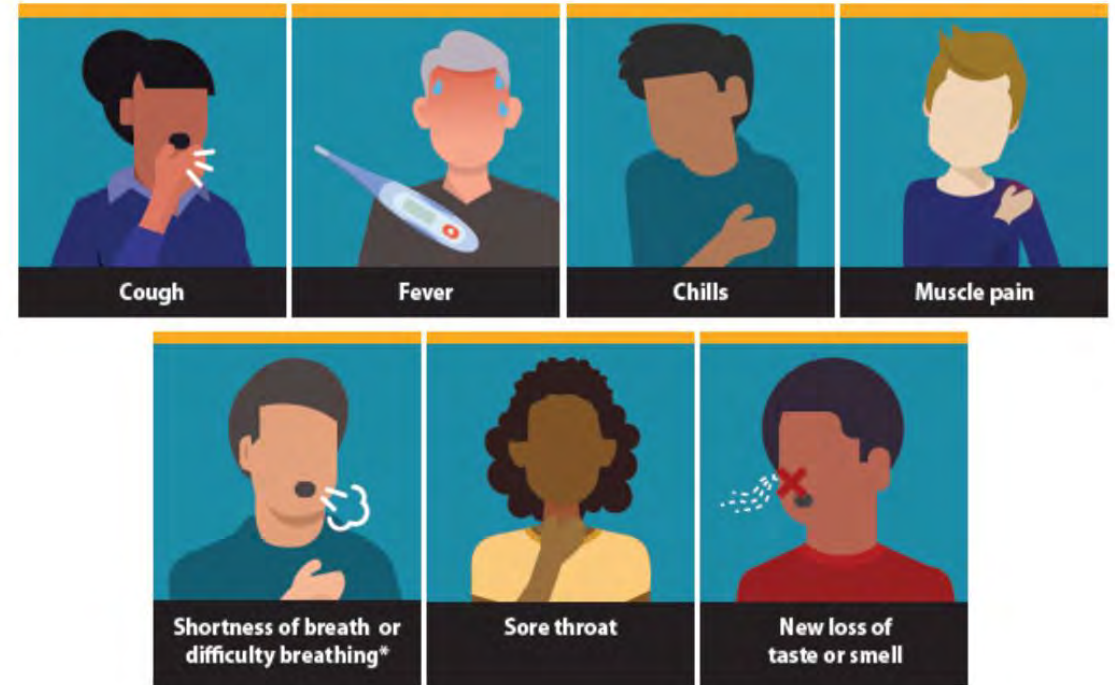
Symptoms of COVID-19

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Symptoms of COVID-19

In the absence of a more likely diagnosis by a healthcare provider, any person with one or more of the following symptoms should isolate and get a test:

- 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
- Diarrhea



Symptoms FAQs

Who needs to quarantine if someone has symptoms of COVID-19 ?

- **Unvaccinated** household contacts must quarantine until the results of the COVID-19 test for the person with symptoms are known.
- School contacts do not need to quarantine pending the COVID-19 test results for someone who has COVID-19 symptoms.

What do I do if someone with symptoms refuses to get tested?

- If someone with symptoms refuses to get tested, the individual should be considered the same as a positive case of COVID-19 and
 - That individual should isolate for 10 days;
 - The household contacts should quarantine; and
 - School contacts should be tested upon learning that they are a close contact; get tested again five to 10 days after the close contact exposure; but do not need to quarantine.

When to Seek Emergency Care

When to Call for Emergency Care

A person with the following symptoms needs emergency medical attention.

Call 911 and notify the operator that you are seeking care for someone who may have COVID-19.

- ☐ Difficulty breathing
- ☐ Persistent pain or pressure in chest
- ☐ New confusion
- ☐ Inability to wake or stay awake
- ☐ Bluish lips or face

*This list does not reflect all possible symptoms requiring emergency care.

Infectious Period

—

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

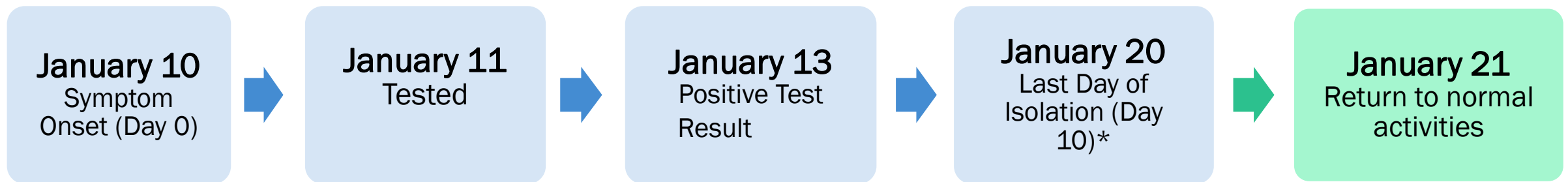
- **Isolation** is for the ill or infected:
 - Separating individuals who are infected with COVID-19 from others.
 - Staying home and isolating from household members as much as possible.
- Duration of isolation depends on whether the individual is:
 - Symptomatic or asymptomatic
 - Immunocompromised

Isolation for Symptomatic Individuals

Updated

Symptomatic

- 10 days since symptoms first appeared (20 days if severely immunocompromised); and
- At least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication; and
- Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving.
 - Loss of taste and smell may persist for weeks or months after recovery and need not delay the end of isolation.



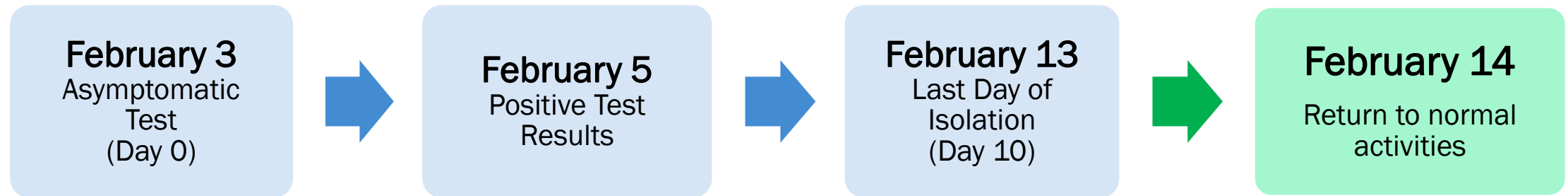
*Assuming that symptomatic criteria are met.

Isolation for Asymptomatic Individuals

Updated

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 15.



Determining Close Contacts

How Is a Close Contact Defined?

- **Close contact**

- Individual who has been within six feet of an infected person (with or without a face mask) for a cumulative 15 minutes over a 24-hour period in either an indoor or outdoor setting regardless of vaccination status:
 - i.e., Three five-minute interactions during the day.
- 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., Infected person coughed directly in someone's face.

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/science-briefs/transmission_k_12_schools.html

Close Contacts in Sports

- **Physical closeness of players**
 - When playing most team sports, 6 ft distance cannot be maintained
 - 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 of getting and spreading COVID-19

Proximity + Intensity = Increased Risk of Respiratory Droplets Transmission



(Close Contact without meeting the 15-minute mark)

Testing of ALL Close Contacts who have not tested positive in the past 90 days

Updated

- **Unvaccinated Close Contacts** (Including students who meet the CDC Pre K-12 close contact exception)
 - People who are not fully vaccinated should get tested immediately after being identified as a close contact. If test results are negative, they should get tested again right away if symptoms develop during quarantine or five to seven days after last exposure.
- **Vaccinated Close Contacts** (Including Students who meet the CDC Pre K-12 close contact exception)
 - Fully vaccinated people who have a known exposure to someone with COVID-19 should get tested three to five days after exposure. They should 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 notified of being a close contact and then again three to five days after the close contact exposure. This will assist in detecting asymptomatic infection and isolating quickly to prevent further spread.

Questions About Close Contacts in School

- 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.

Questions About Close Contacts in School

- 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.

Can Schools Quarantine Close Contacts?

- **Yes.** Under the Governor's Executive Order, schools can notify all close contacts and ask them to quarantine according to the RIDOH guidance.
 - Close contacts may also be contacted by RIDOH.
- School leaders also have the authority to:
 - Ask students/staff to stay home while RIDOH completes the case investigation;
 - Shift a class or grade to distance learning; and
 - Inform students/staff that RIDOH may reach out to close contacts to provide quarantine guidance.

Close Contacts Exempt from Quarantine

New

- Names and contact information of ALL close contacts should be provided to RIDOH during case investigations and contact tracing.
- The following groups of people should still be considered close contacts and reported to RIDOH but are exempt from quarantine:
 - Fully vaccinated close contacts;
 - Close contacts who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 during the past 90 days; and
 - Individuals who meet the criteria for the new K-12 Close Contact Exception (see next slide for details).
- If the school knows who falls into these three categories, please mark that information on the close contact spreadsheet when submitting to RIDOH.

New K-12 Student Close Contact Exception

New

- A K-12 student exposed to another K-12 student infected with COVID-19 does not need to quarantine if all of the following apply:
 - Both the infected person and exposed close contact are K-12 students;
 - The exposure occurred in an **indoor** K-12 classroom;
 - 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 in the indoor classroom setting.**
- Students meeting this close contact exception should be **included on the close contact spreadsheet** that is submitted to RIDOH, and the school must note that the students meet the new K-12 student close contact exemption.

Testing of Close Contacts

- **Is testing during quarantine required?**
 - Testing during quarantine is recommended but not required, unless the 7-day quarantine option is being used. However, in some outbreak situations, close contacts may be required to get tested before returning to school.
- **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 (Continued)

- 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.

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 Options

Updated

RIDOH recommends the least disruptive quarantine option:

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

Other quarantine options:

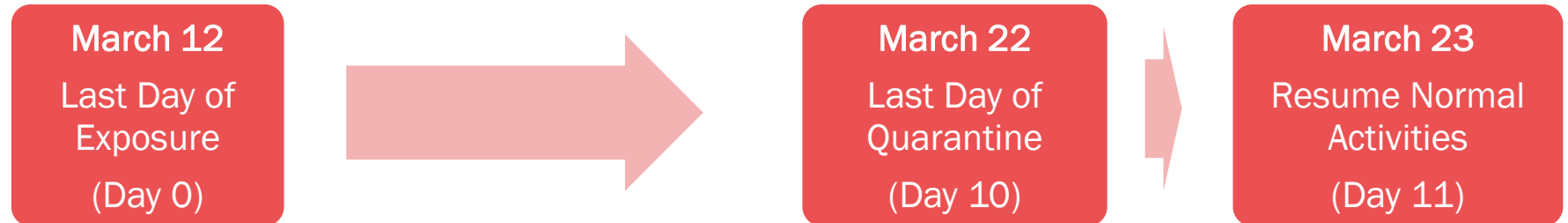
- **10 days** from the last day they were in contact with the infected individual. Continue to watch for symptoms through day 14.
- **14 days** from the last day they were in contact with the infected individual. Safest option but more disruptive.
- RIDOH does **not** dictate which options schools/districts should choose to implement.
- RIDOH **does** encourage schools to inform their community which option they have chosen to implement.

Calculating Quarantine Options

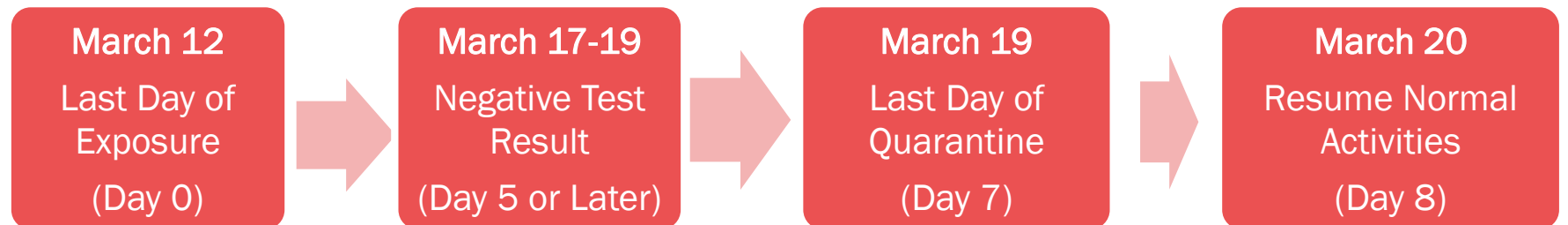
- **14 Day Quarantine Option**



- **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 link above, and scroll down to the middle of the page to download the calculator

What to do if you or a close contact has COVID-19

- Learn about Rhode Island's close contact quarantine requirements.

[Requirements](#) [FAQ](#)

- To calculate the length of quarantine for close contacts, use this [COVID-19 Close Contact Quarantine Calculator](#).

Quarantine Questions

For individuals who are not fully vaccinated and don't meet the K-12 student close contact exception

Updated

- If I get tested during quarantine and get a negative result, when does my quarantine end?
 - If you get tested on day 5 or later with a PCR 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 results are pending.

- 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.
- When do close contacts of a symptomatic person need to stay home?
 - Only unvaccinated household contacts of a symptomatic person should stay home while tests results are pending because of the increased exposure they have in the home environment.
- Do contacts of contacts need to quarantine?
 - No. Only close contacts of the person who was infectious need to quarantine.

School-Specific Quarantine Questions

- 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.

Travel and Quarantine



Travel quarantine

- **Travel Quarantine:** While there is no law requiring quarantine after travel, RIDOH strongly recommends following CDC guidance on travel quarantine as the best public health practice (details on the follow two slides).
 - For more information on these recommendations please visit [Travel Information for Residents and Visitors | RI COVID-19 Information Portal](#).

Quarantine Recommendations for Domestic Travelers

Updated

Fully vaccinated

- People who are fully vaccinated with an FDA-authorized vaccine or a vaccine authorized for emergency use by the World Health Organization (WHO) can travel safely within the United States.
- You do NOT need to get tested or self quarantine if you are fully vaccinated or have recovered from COVID-19 in the past 90 days.
- You should still follow all other travel recommendations from the CDC.

Unvaccinated

- Get tested three to five days after travel **AND** stay home and self quarantine for a full seven days after travel.
 - Even if you get a negative test result, stay home and self quarantine for the full seven days.
 - If your test result is positive, [isolate](#) yourself to protect others from getting infected.
- If you don't get tested, stay home and self quarantine for 10 days after travel.
- Avoid being around people who are at [increased risk for severe illness](#) for 14 days, whether you get tested or not.

Quarantine Recommendations for International Travelers

Fully vaccinated

- Get tested three to five days after travel.
- Self monitor for COVID-19 symptoms, isolate, and get tested if you develop symptoms.

Unvaccinated

Updated

- Get tested with a [viral test](#) three to five days after travel **AND** stay home and self quarantine for a full seven days after travel.
 - Even if you get a negative test result, stay home and self quarantine for the full seven days.
 - If your test result is positive, [isolate](#) yourself to protect others from getting infected.
- If you don't get tested, stay home and self quarantine for 10 days after travel.
- Avoid being around people who are at [increased risk for severe illness](#) for 14 days, whether you get tested or not.
- Self monitor for COVID-19 symptoms, isolate, and get tested if you develop symptoms.

Isolation and Quarantine for Household Members

Isolation Within the Household

Updated

- A person in isolation is considered separated from others while in isolation within the household if
 - The isolated person remains in the household but stays in their own bedroom at all times and uses their own bathroom without sharing 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 uses. If the bathroom is disinfected between uses, the infected person is considered to be isolating within the household;
 - The isolated person remains in the household but on a completely separate floor or living area at all times (e.g., separate apartment within the house); or
 - 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

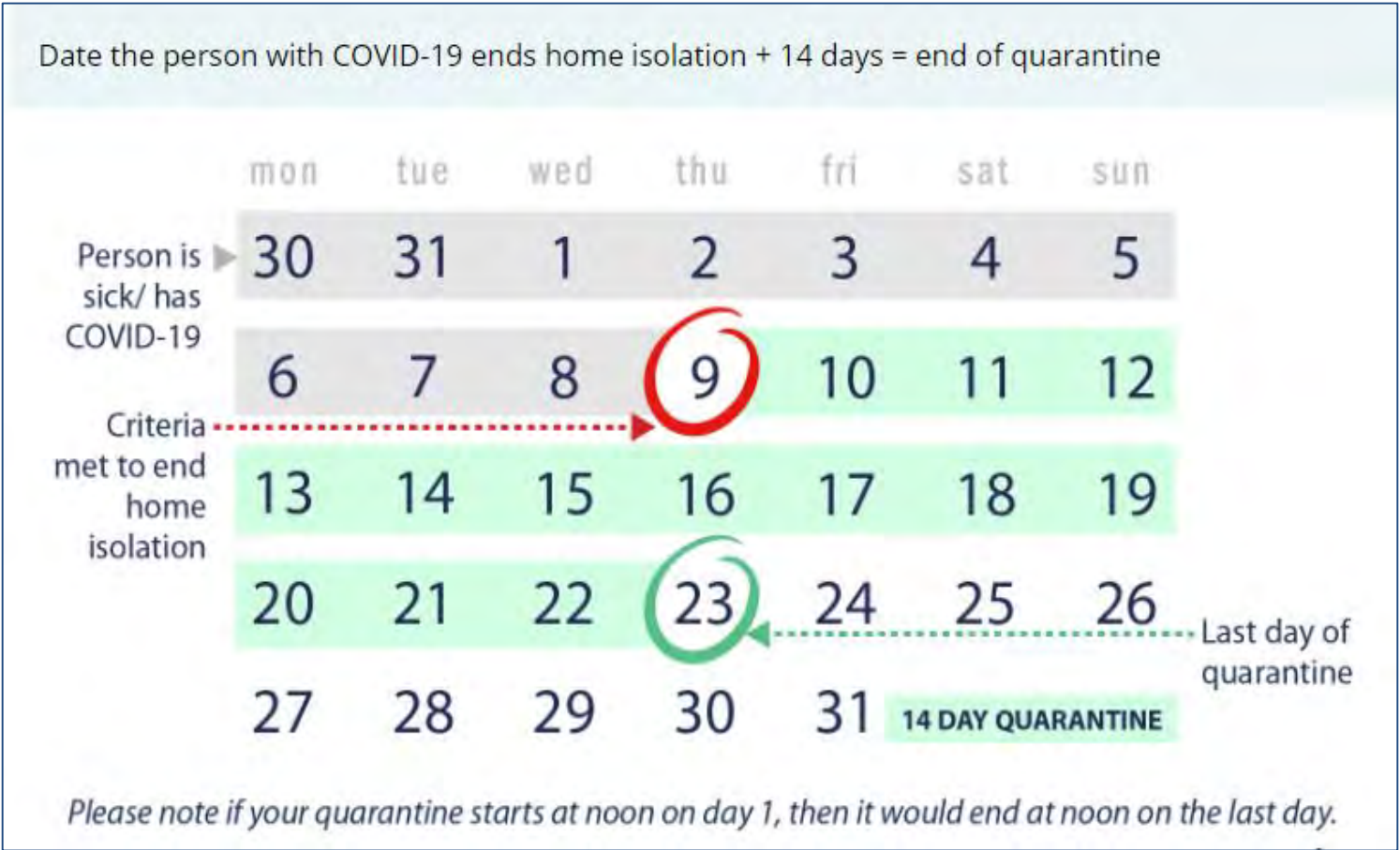
- Household members would start their quarantine from the date of last exposure to the infected household member (called “Day 0”).
- Day 0 is the last day that household members and the infected household member shared living space;
 - Spent time together in the same rooms;
 - Were closer than six feet 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 later (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

- 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:** Seven days with a negative test result on day 5 or later (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).

Quarantine End Dates for Household Members who Cannot Separate

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 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 fever-reducing medication 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.

Mask Mandate



Statewide Masking Law for Public K-12 Schools

- As of August 19, 2021 via [Executive Order 21-87](#) all public K-12 schools are required to have a universal indoor mask requirement in place at the start of the 2021-22 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.

COVID-19 Vaccination



COVID-19 Vaccine Quick Tips

- 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](#)

COVID-19 Immunity

- **When does a person have immunity after vaccination?**
 - After vaccination for COVID-19, it takes 14 days after the final recommended dose to have vaccine immunity.
 - We won't know how long immunity lasts after vaccination until we have more data on how well COVID-19 vaccines work in real-world conditions.
- **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.

Quarantine Exemption for Fully Vaccinated Persons

If a person is fully vaccinated (meaning it's been 14 or more days since the last recommended dose in the vaccine series) and remains asymptomatic, they do not need to

- Quarantine if identified as a close contact to a case (even if the close contact is a household member); or
- Quarantine after travel.
- RIDOH strongly encourages fully vaccinated people to get tested three to five days after close contact with an infected individual or international travel and monitor symptoms for 14 days.

Frequently Asked Vaccine Questions

Updated

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 shot (dose one or dose two) while on 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 health care provider, and get tested.

- **Can I get Vaccinated While on Quarantine?**
 - You cannot get your vaccination shot (dose 1 or dose 2) while on 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.
 - These individuals may participate in testing if desired.

Exemptions for Fully Vaccinated Individuals

Updated

	After COVID-19 vaccination: Presumed immunity 14 days after last vaccine dose
Quarantine for close contacts	Exempt. Test on Day 3 to 5 after exposure. Monitor for symptoms for 14 days after exposure. Wear a mask in public indoor settings until test result are received.
Quarantine for travel, domestic or international	Exempt. Test on Day 3 to 5 after travel. Monitor for symptoms for 14 days after return from travel.
Asymptomatic testing	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 for travel, domestic or international	Exempt. Monitor for symptoms for 14 days after exposure/travel.
Asymptomatic testing	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 symptoms like COVID-19 but 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.**

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 health care 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 health care provider, the recommendations may include treating it as a new COVID-19 infection, isolating the symptomatic person, and quarantining close contacts.

Protocols for Schools



Protocol for a Symptomatic Individual

Updated

Situation	Isolation and quarantine protocol	Recommended testing protocol	Requirement to return
Staff or student has a symptom(s) of COVID-19	<p>Symptomatic individual is isolated, sent home,</p> <p><u>Unvaccinated household contacts</u> must quarantine while test results are pending</p> <p>School close contacts do NOT need to quarantine while test results are pending the</p>	<p>Advise symptomatic individual to seek medical advice and get a 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">• Not tested<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Has been fever free for 24 hours without use of fever-reducing medication and symptoms improved (back to usual health).• Must have attestation from a professional health care provider if there's a more likely diagnosis.• Tested negative (PCR)<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Has been fever free for 24 hours without use of fever-reducing medication and symptoms improved (back to usual health).• Tested positive (PCR or antigen)<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Has met RIDOH guidelines for ending isolation.

Protocol for a Confirmed Case

Updated

Situation	Isolation and quarantine protocol	Recommended testing protocol	Requirement to return
Staff or student tests positive	<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. RIDOH recommends all close contacts get tested three to five days after the exposure.</p> <p>Close contacts who are fully vaccinated do not need to quarantine but should get tested three to five days after the exposure.</p> <p>Individuals who have tested positive in the past 90 days do not need to quarantine and should not get tested.</p>	<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 medication 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>RIDOH recommends all unvaccinated close contacts get tested three to five days after contact.</p>	<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 test (antigen or PCR) on 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.

Protocol Summary

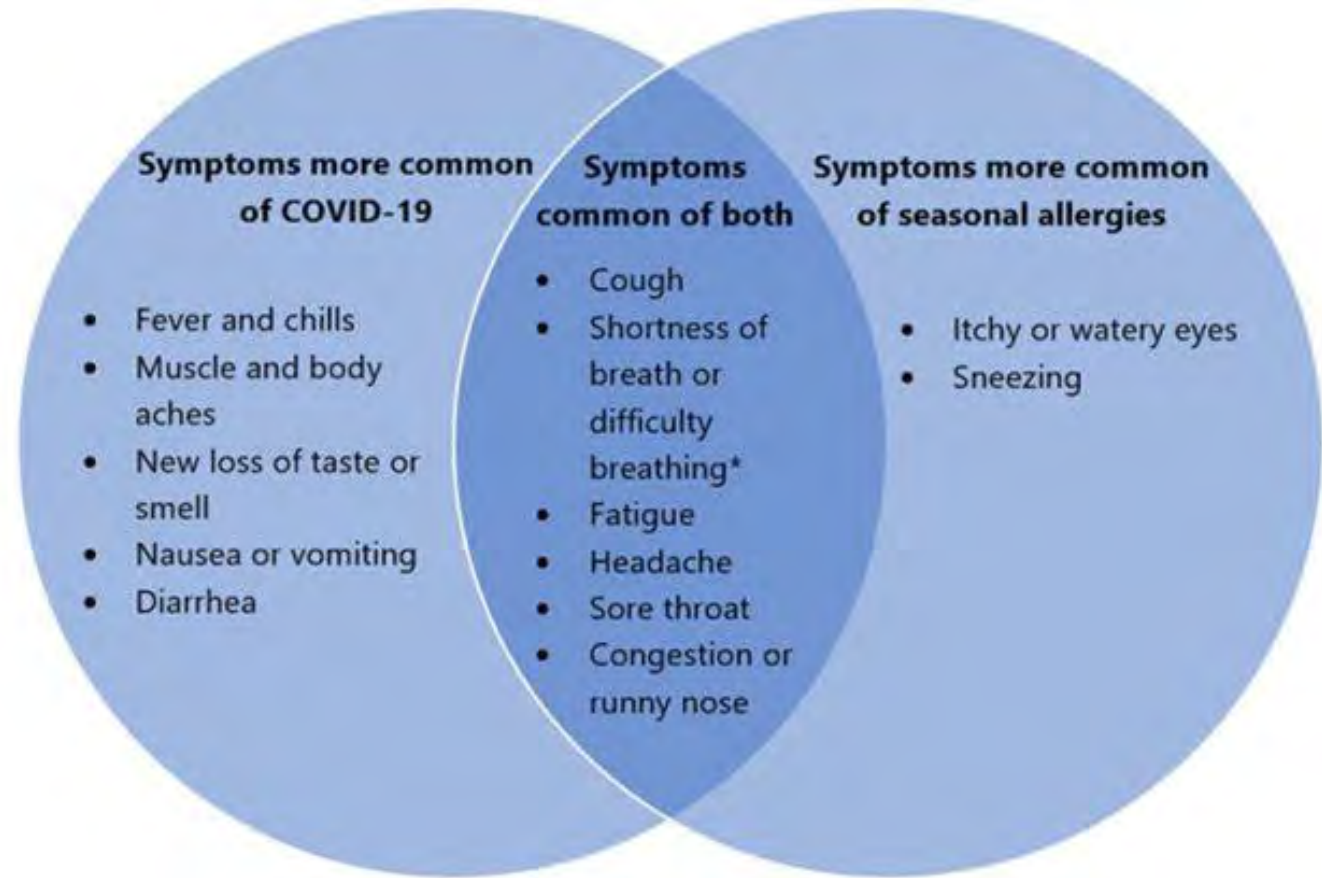
	Symptomatic	Person Tests Positive with PCR or Antigen Test	Person Tests Negative with a PCR Test
Isolation and Quarantine Guidance	Isolate. Medical advice. Test. If not tested/tests neg <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fever free for 24 hours; and • Symptoms improved (back to usual health). 	Isolate 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.

COVID-19 and Allergies

COVID-19 and Allergies

When you have new onset of ANY symptom, it could be COVID-19

- Stay home
- Get tested
- Spare your contacts from quarantine



COVID and Allergies, Asthma, or Chronic Health Problems

If you have new onset of ANY COVID-19 symptom, stay home and get tested:

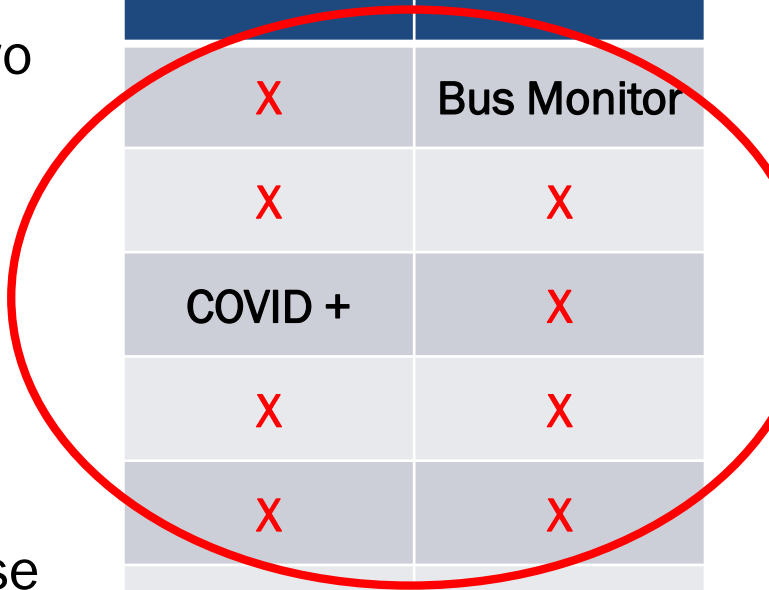
- If the test result is negative and **symptoms are consistent with allergies, asthma, or other chronic health problems**, then the individual may return to school/sports after being fever-free for 24 hours.
 - If symptoms are a result of allergies, they may last as long as the allergen (i.e. pollen) is present. This may be for weeks or longer. The child may attend school/sports as long as there is no fever, no new symptoms of COVID-19, and no sudden change of symptoms.
- If there is any **new additional COVID-19 symptom or sudden change or worsening** of runny nose, nasal congestion, or other symptom then,
 - Dismiss home;
 - Seek medical advice; and
 - Get tested, as required to return to school/sports.

Bus Guidance



Bus Quarantine Guidance—Student Tests Positive

- What happens if a student on bus tests positive for COVID-19?
 - Close contacts are those who sat in the same row or within two rows of the infected person. Quarantine is for those who sat
 - Two rows in front;
 - Two rows behind; and
 - The same five rows on opposite side of the aisle.
 - If it is a small bus, then call RIDOH for consult.
 - If the ride is fewer 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.

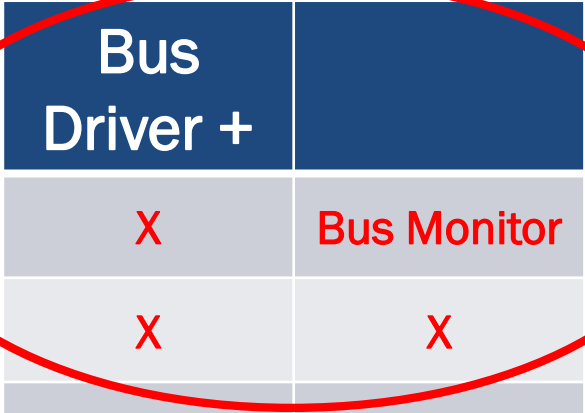


Bus Driver	
X	Bus Monitor
X	X
COVID +	X
X	X
X	X
X	X
X	X

Bus Quarantine Guidance—Driver Tests Positive

Updated

- 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.



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

Case Investigation and Contact Tracing In the K-12 Setting

Overview of Case Investigation Process

- RIDOH receives a positive COVID-19 lab result (PCR or antigen test).
- Case investigator calls the case for an interview:
 - Asks about symptoms, exposures, activities, vaccination status, etc.;
 - Close contacts*
 - Person who was within six feet for more than 15 minutes (cumulative within 24 hours) during the infectious period;
 - Infectious period is two days before symptom onset (or if asymptomatic, two days before COVID-19 test).
 - Case Investigator informs the case to isolate.
- Contact Tracer calls close contacts to put them in quarantine and recommend testing.

***Close contacts may be exempt from quarantine if they are fully vaccinated; have had COVID-19 in the last 90 days; or meet the criteria for the CDC K-12 student close contact exception.**

Case Investigation—Questions for Schools

Updated

- Case Investigator emails the Superintendent and/or the Principal, School Nurse, or COVID-19 Coordinator to
 - Verify the individual's last day in school.
 - Determine if the child is in a stable pod?
 - Are there times when pods mix?
 - List the students and staff in each pod.
 - Review seating charts for each classroom
 - Include names and locations of all students and teachers.
 - Indicate the amount of space between desks.
 - Note which students and teachers are vaccinated.
 - Note which students may have met the Pre K-12 student close contact exception.

Case Investigation—More Questions for Schools

- Has anyone else been in the classroom? What is their vaccination status?
 - Substitute teacher;
 - Teacher's aide;
 - Student teacher; and/or
 - Support service provider.
- If a staff member, do teachers gather in a shared space?
 - Workroom;
 - Breakroom; and/or
 - Professional development sessions.

Case Investigation—More Questions for Schools

- Before school care and aftercare
- Sports teams and gym
- Bus or carpool groups
- Lunch
- Recess
- Bathroom groups
- Drop off and dismissal
- Transitions within school

Things to Keep Updated and Easily Accessible

- **School Points of Contact**
 - RIDOH will notify the principal/COVID-19 contact and the superintendent
 - Make sure RIDOH has updated contact information for all school points of contact
 - Office numbers
 - Cell phones for weekends/after hours
- Seating charts for classrooms and buses
- Phone numbers for teachers and coaches

Rhode Island Guidance for Sports

Guidance for Keeping Teams Safe

- 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.

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.
 - Be prepared to quarantine
 - Distance learning for students
 - Parents may miss work if minor is on quarantine
 - Missing other games and events

Sports Quarantine Protocols

Updated

- RIDOH, RIDE, and the Rhode Island Interscholastic League (RIIL) will work closely together to assess the risk associated with a particular sport and the safest quarantine protocols for the team(s) when a case is identified on a sports team.

What to Expect as an Athletic Director

- 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 coach.
- RIDOH will call the Athletic Director, state that an individual on the team is positive for COVID and request that the Athletic Director work with the coach
 - Sends a team roster with player vaccination status to RIDOH quickly;
 - Notifies the team that they need to quarantine while awaiting a call from RIDOH; and
 - Provides RIDOH with the contact name and phone number of the opposing coach (depending on the situation).

Sports—Screening

- **Screening:** 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.

Sports—Testing

- **Testing 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, 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 health care provider for evaluation.

Sports—Person Awaiting Test Results

When a person is symptomatic and awaiting test results for COVID-19 or is a close contact awaiting 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).

Sports—Masking

Updated

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

Sports—Physical Distancing

Updated

- **Physical distancing**
 - 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.

Sports—Quarantine Policy

- Quarantine

- All organizations, leagues, and participants are strongly encouraged to fully cooperate and follow the guidance provided from 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 practice, 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.

Case Investigation and Contact Tracing for Sports

Lessons Learned

- Playing sports comes with risk of exposure to COVID-19 during active play/practice and during team travel and social activities;
- Set expectations;
- Constant Communication;
- Ensure all involved individuals (e.g., athletes, parents, coaches, etc.) understand procedures;
- Maintain consistent and efficient procedures; and
- 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.

Sports- Quarantine and Isolation

- RIDOH will
 - Maintain consistent isolation/quarantine practices throughout the season.
 - RIDOH will NOT make exceptions for players to be exempt from isolation/quarantine during championship games.

Sports-Close Contact Identification Protocol

- RIIL and RIDOH developed a protocol for high schools and athletic directors to use for close contact identification.
- Athletic directors and principals voted to adopt the protocol.
- RIDOH will no longer default to quarantining entire athletic teams:
 - Athletic Director/Principal, in consultation with RIDOH, will identify athletes, coaches, and officials that need to quarantine.
- It is recommended that middle schools should adopt a similar policy.
- Refer to RIIL website for protocol [riil.org/COVID-19 Info](https://riil.org/COVID-19%20Info).

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 August 5
 - Weekdays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 - Weekends 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Who Can Be Scheduled for a Test Through This Service?

- Anyone associated with K-12 (students, staff, coaches, etc.) 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 Through State
Community Testing
Sites Are FREE

Find a Test site near you here:

docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ZPU7c3QYweLDNa2TyCng_L5TC33CT_4xJrGEl_QrxSU/edit#gid=0

How Can I Access Test Results?

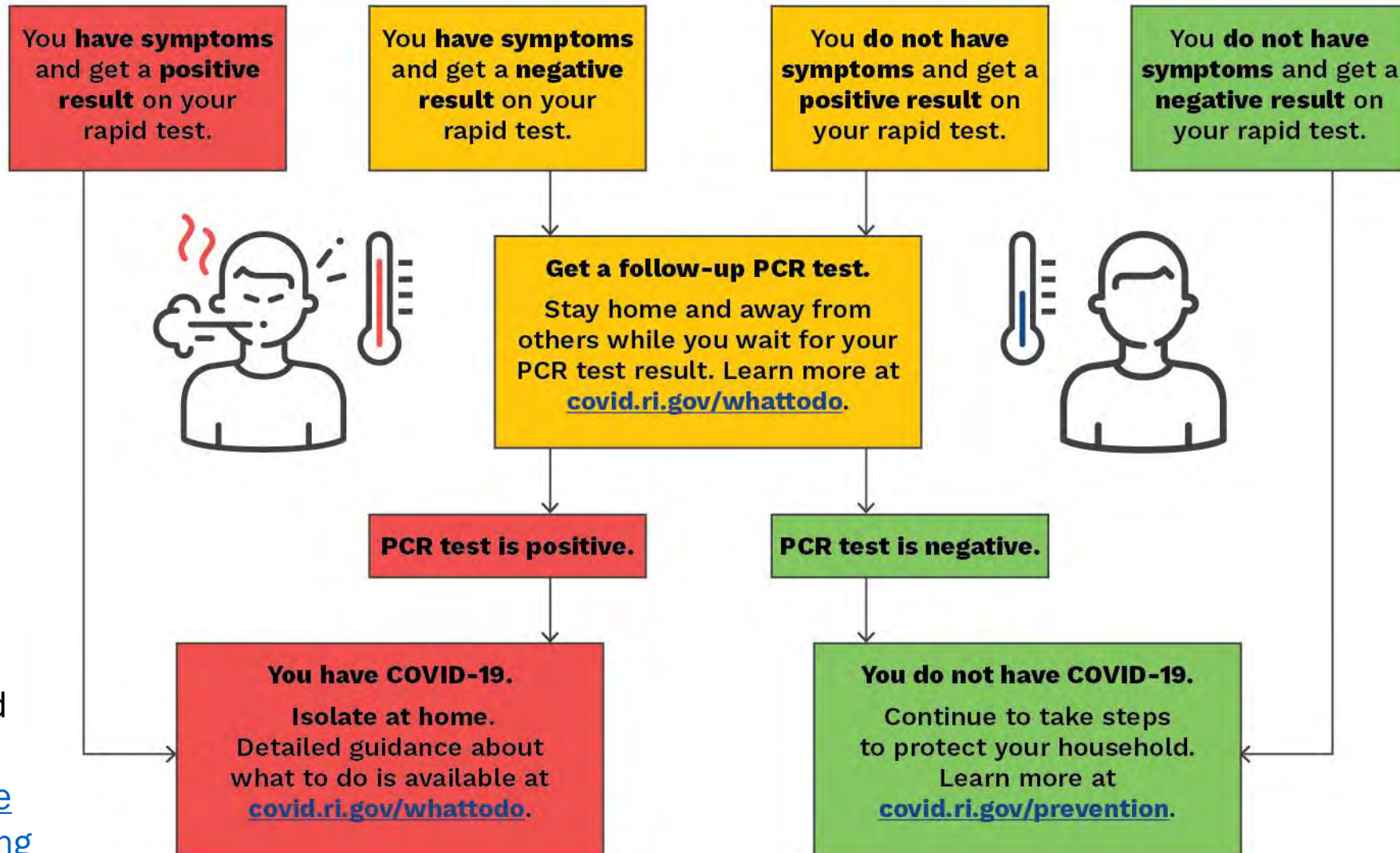
- If you were recently tested for COVID-19 in the State of Rhode Island, you can access a record of your test result at portal.ri.gov/results.
- What you must have to access your test results
 - Name (as provided to the appointment line or portal)
 - Date of Birth; and
 - Date of Testing Appointment.
- **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
Unvaccinated traveler shortening quarantine	PCR

Confirming a Positive Asymptomatic Antigen Test Result

COVID-19 Confirmatory Testing Protocol



Note: The “gold standard” for testing remains laboratory-based NAATs. [CDC Interim Guidance for Antigen Testing](\"https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2020/s110520-cdc-nat.html\")

Antigen Positive Test

- Asymptomatic student is tested with an antigen test. Antigen test is positive.
 - What does the student do?
 - Isolate and get a PCR test as soon as possible.
 - What do the household members do?
 - Quarantine until they get PCR results.
 - What does the school do?
 - Exclude positive student and sibling from school while awaiting test results
 - May gather list of close contacts before test results, but DO NOT quarantine school contacts.

Antigen Positive Test Followed by a Negative PCR

- Asymptomatic student with positive antigen test, followed by negative PCR.
 - What does the student do now?
 - End isolation and resume normal activities.
 - What do the household members do now?
 - End quarantine and resume normal activities.
 - What does the school do?
 - Allow the student and siblings to return to school.
 - If the school gathered a list of close contacts in advance of test results, throw the list away.

Antigen Positive Test Followed by a Positive PCR

- Asymptomatic 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.
 - 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.

Antigen Positive Test Without a Follow-up PCR

Process is the same as positive PCR

- Asymptomatic student with positive antigen test, with no follow-up PCR
 - What does the student do now?
 - Complete ten days of isolation.
 - What do the household members do now?
 - Complete quarantine for household members.
 - 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.

Reporting Antigen Test Results for Academic Year 21

New

- Report the results of all 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.
- 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.

Resources for Schools



Template Letters and Close Contact Template

- Positive Case letter
 - [English](#)
 - [Portuguese](#)
 - [Spanish](#)
- Positive Case-Past Quarantine Letter
 - [English](#)
 - [Portuguese](#)
 - [Spanish](#)
- [Excel School Close Contact Template](#)

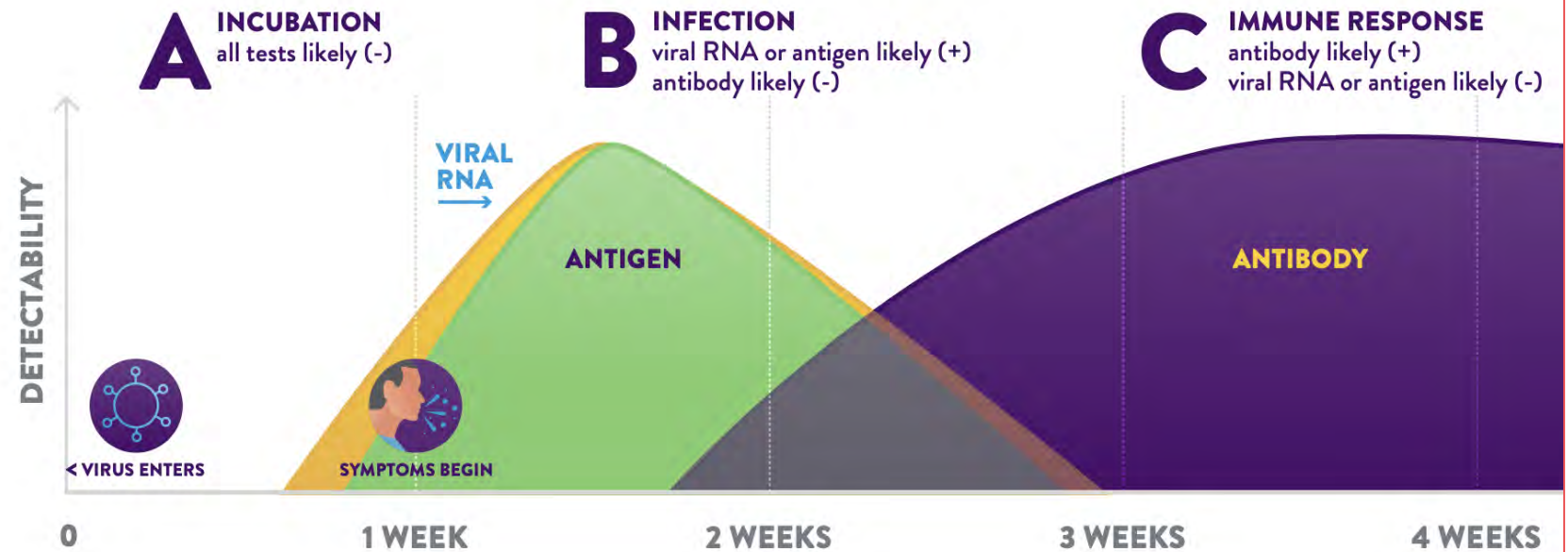
Overview: Antigen Tests Versus PCR Tests

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.

THE TIMING OF YOUR TEST IS IMPORTANT AND CAN DETERMINE WHETHER YOU GET A POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE RESULT



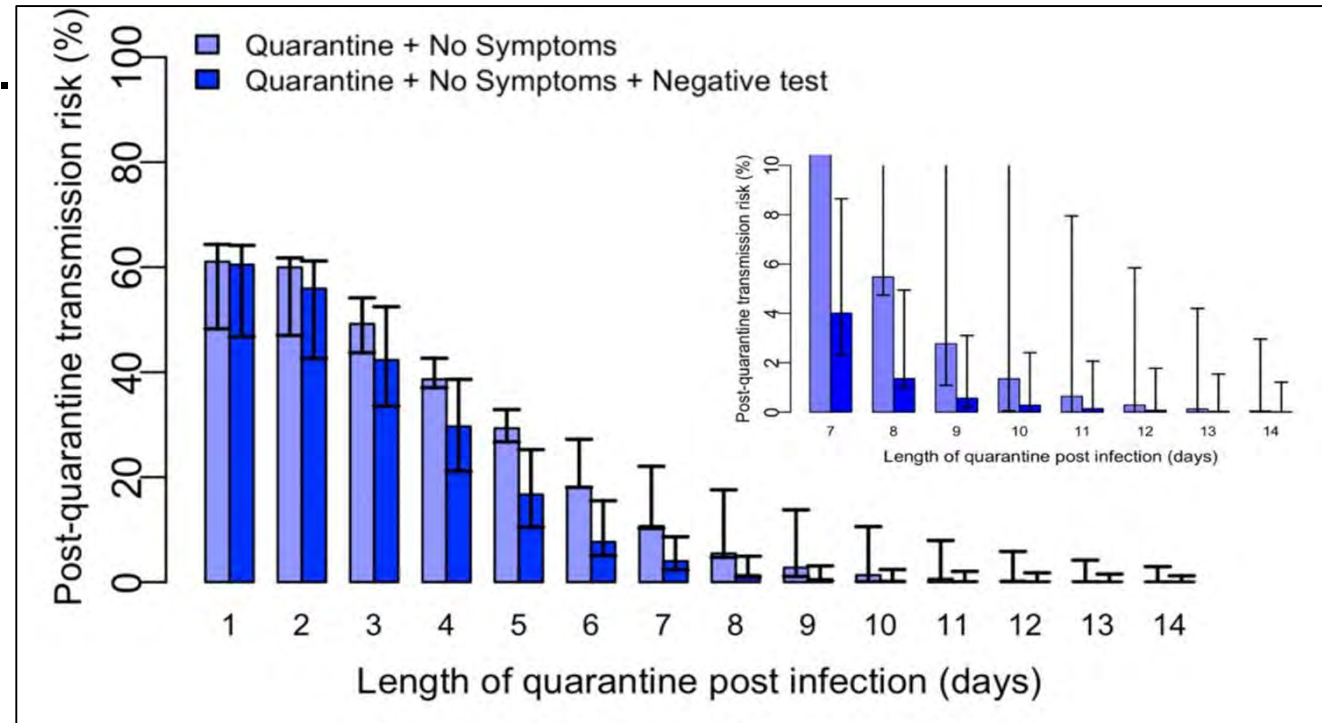
Reference Abbott #Knowthecurves

Appendix



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%.
- **Seven-Day Quarantine with negative test result on day 5**
 - The post-quarantine transmission risk is approximately 5%, (upper limit of about 12%).



Glossary



Glossary

Term	Definition
Close contact	Being within six (6) feet of an infected person (with or without a face mask) for a total of 15 minutes, over 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-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.

Glossary

Term**Definition**

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) is asymptomatic.
 - 20 days for individuals with severely immunocompromising conditions.
-

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.

Glossary

Term	Definition
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	<p>Three types of tests are available to detect COVID-19: viral tests, antigen tests, and antibody tests.</p> <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.