



Department of Health  
Three Capitol Hill  
Providence, RI 02908-5097  
TTY: 711  
[www.health.ri.gov](http://www.health.ri.gov)

May 20, 2022

Dear Rhode Island Pre K-12 Families,

We are writing to remind you of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) isolation protocol for those who test positive for COVID-19. Please see the specifics of the isolation protocol for school-based settings below:

- Anyone who tests positive for COVID-19, **even if they are vaccinated**, must stay home and isolate for *at least 5 days*.
- They *may* return to school on day 6, **if they don't have symptoms or their symptoms are improving, and they've been fever-free for 24 hours** (without the use of fever reducing medication), *and*
- **On days 6-10 of their isolation period, they must wear a [well-fitting mask](#)** on the bus, in school, and at all school-associated events. They should also wear a mask outside of school when they are around others, especially when indoors.
- **If students and staff are unable to wear a mask at school, they must isolate at home for the full 10 days following the positive test.** They can then return to school if their symptoms have improved and they've been fever-free for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medication).
- The CDC recommends an isolation period of at least 10, and up to 20 days, for people who were severely ill with COVID-19 and for people with weakened immune systems.
- **Everyone must follow these isolation protocols, even if they receive a negative test result** (i.e., antigen or PCR) during their 10-day isolation period.

Additionally, **please ensure that all self-test positive test results are reported to the RIDOH** at [portal.ri.gov/s/selftest](http://portal.ri.gov/s/selftest). This information helps the Department of Health monitor the spread of COVID-19.

For additional information about COVID-19, visit [health.ri.gov/covid](http://health.ri.gov/covid) or call 401-222-8022. You can find this [letter available online](#).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James V. McDonald MD, MPH".

James V. McDonald MD, MPH  
Interim Director of Health  
[james.mcdonald@health.ri.gov](mailto:james.mcdonald@health.ri.gov)