



Moses Brown School

# HEALTH AND SAFETY FAQS

Moses Brown Community,

We have compiled a shortened version of the Rhode Island Department of Health Protocol Playbook. While this document is to get you familiar with terms and processes, it is NOT a substitute for reading the actual guide. We highly encourage you and your family to read the guide together and keep it as a reference throughout the school year. Our protocols are based on the CDC and Rhode Island Department of Health Guidelines.

**Terms you should know** ([for a complete list click here](#)):

**COVID-19:** Abbreviation for the disease caused by the novel coronavirus SARS CoV-2.

**Close Contact:** Being within 6 feet of an infected person (with or without a face mask) for at least 15 minutes, or having unprotected direct contact with secretions or excretions of a person with confirmed COVID-19 during the infectious period.

**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. If a person infected with COVID-19 has no symptoms, isolation lasts a minimum of 10 days from the date of test specimen collection (test). For individuals with severely immunocompromising conditions, isolation is at least 20 days.

**Probable case:** Individual who has at least two of the following symptoms: fever (measured > 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or subjective), chills (rigors), body aches (myalgia), headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, or congestion or runny nose OR at least one of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing, new loss of smell or new loss of taste.

**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. Anyone who has been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 must stay home for a minimum of 14 days since the last day of contact with the person with COVID-19 and watch for symptoms of COVID-19. Persons in quarantine should self-monitor for symptoms and seek medical advice and test if recommended by RIDOH or healthcare providers.

**Symptomatic individual:** A person who is experiencing one or more of the symptoms of COVID-19 as defined in CDC guidelines.

## What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

The CDC lists symptoms as:

- 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

## When do symptoms become a probable case?

### Probable Case of COVID-19

CDC defines a probable case as an individual who meets the following criteria.

#### One of the following symptoms:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Difficulty breathing
- New loss of taste or smell

or

#### Two of the following symptoms:

- Fever
- Chills (rigors)
- Muscle aches (myalgias)
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Nausea or Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Fatigue
- Congestion or runny nose

Any student who meets probable case definition should notify RIDOH by school staff reporting through the RIDOH Portal (details to come), receive a test, and isolate and arrange for student pickup. More guidance will be released in the coming weeks on these specific action steps.

For a complete list of scenarios and protocols including what happens after a positive test download the Rhode Island Department of Health Playbook [here](#).

## What happens if a student becomes ill at school?

Those who develop symptoms at school should report to the nurse and then go home immediately. Symptomatic students must remain in isolation at the nurse's office, and parents must pick them up within one hour of notification by the school.

Anyone with symptoms should seek medical advice within 48 hours and schedule a COVID-19 test as needed. Per state guidelines, a return to school will not be permitted until documentation from a medical provider indicates testing was negative and there are no other restrictions, there is no evidence of illness restricting attendance, or it is documented that the individual is no longer contagious.

## How are close contacts determined in schools?

Close contacts are those within six feet for more than 15 minutes. This means settings where physical distancing can be maintained or determined such as classrooms with assigned seats, buses with assigned seats and controlled entry/exit, seating charts needed for contact identification and tracing; as well as, settings where physical distancing cannot be maintained or determined. This includes entire classroom/stable group members that are likely to be close contacts, childcare and summer camp, K-12 classrooms without physical distancing or assigned seats, and sports teams.

## What's the difference between Isolation and Quarantine? (See Playbook page 19).

Quarantine begins the day after the last day of exposure to case during the case's infectious period. A household member is considered to have ongoing exposure until the end of the case's infectious period. If the quarantined individual lives in the household with a case, the 14-day quarantine count starts when the isolated individual is released from isolation.

## If a student is exposed does the whole family have to quarantine?

No. If a student is exposed, only that student needs to quarantine, not the rest of the family.

## If a probable case is sent home, does the school quarantine close contacts while awaiting test results? Will the school nurse be responsible for contacting families to let them know they cannot come to school due to exposure or will RIDOH do that?

No. Close contacts will not be required to quarantine until we have test results. If the test is positive, RIDOH will obtain a list of close contacts at school and perform contact tracing phone calls to close contacts.

## If RIDOH calls the school with a known case, will the school send those students home who were in that pod, or will RIDOH contact those families?

No, it's not required to send exposed students in a pod home immediately. They can be sent home at the end of the day following normal dismissal procedures. RIDOH will call the families to put them in quarantine.

## What happens if a staff member is symptomatic?

If a staff member is symptomatic, the school will follow the same criteria as students. <https://health.ri.gov/publications/presentations/Outbreak-Response-Protocols-PreK-12.pdf>

## What is the process for returning to campus in the event of symptoms?

### Clearance protocols for children and staff members to return to class

| Symptom   | Will be Tested?*                      |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Cough (new)   | Yes                                   |
| Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing                           | Yes                                   |
| New loss of taste or smell  | Yes                                   |
| Fever (temperature higher than 100.4° or feels feverish to the touch) | Yes, if two or more of these symptoms |
| Chills  |                                       |
| Muscle or body aches  |                                       |
| Headache  |                                       |
| Sore throat   |                                       |
| Fatigue   |                                       |
| Congestion or runny nose (new)  |                                       |
| Nausea or vomiting  | No, if only one of these symptoms     |
| Diarrhea  |                                       |

## **When to call the nurse?**

If a student, staff, family member, or close contact tests positive, has “probable case” symptoms, or has been advised by RIDOH to isolate or quarantine you should notify Barret Clarke ( MS/US) or Shanna Salazar (LS). Information will remain confidential but other close contacts may need to be notified by RIDOH for further information and contact tracing purposes. School nurses are required to report any probable case via an on-line portal directly to RIDOH and will be consulting them regularly as any questions or concerns emerge.

If there are questions regarding the possibility of probable symptoms please stay home and consult your doctor before considering attending school.

The temperature threshold for school is 100.0 or higher.

## **When can a child or staff member return to work or school after travel?**

Families should notify the school and quarantine upon return from any state with a COVID-19 positivity rate higher than 5%.

### States with current RI travel restrictions

The preferred method is to quarantine for 14 days after returning to R.I. from international travel or travel to a U.S. state where > 5% of COVID tests are positive.

- COVID-19 can develop any time between 2-14 days after exposure
- A single negative test only indicates that you are negative at that point in time, but you could become infectious any time through day 14
- Quarantining for 14 days before returning to school is the best way to reduce the chance of exposing the school community to COVID-19

Other resources you should know:

[Rhode Island Department of Health](#)

[CDC Guidance on Schools](#)

[Reopeningri.com/Schools](https://reopeningri.com/schools)

<https://health.ri.gov/covid/testing/>

[MB's One Stop for info webpage](#)