



**Policy Statement:** The purpose of this policy is to set the standard procedures for responding to suspected and confirmed cases of COVID19. Content has been established based on the guidance of RIDOH, CDC, and RIDE which is imbedded in this document.

**Applicability:** This policy applies to all students, faculty, and staff. Effective September 14, 2020 Policy

**Authority:** School Principal and School Nurse Implementation Procedures: ABSENCE AND DISMISSAL:

**Student Guidelines for Absence:**

- If your child(ren) becomes sick with any of the COVID-19 symptoms listed below in the chart, tests positive for COVID-19, or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 (a confirmed or suspected case) they should NOT come to school, and must notify the School Office as soon as possible.

**Student Guidelines for Dismissal:**

- If your child(ren) becomes sick with any of the COVID-19 symptoms listed below in the chart, you will be notified by the School Nurse or School Office.
- Siblings of students or any person living in the same household will also need to be dismissed from school until a better understanding of the clinical situation is obtained. Siblings/household contacts of probable cases will need to stay home until the probable sibling/person is tested and receives negative results from both the rapid and PCR tests.
- Parents/guardians are required to pick up their child(ren) within 1 hour when called for dismissal.
- Student’s family must have an alternate plan if a parent or guardian is unable to pick up within 1 hour. The school MUST have accurate, up-to-date phone numbers on file.

**EXCLUSION / DISMISSAL CRITERIA: (COVID-19 symptoms)**

Cough (new)	If your child has ANY ONE of these symptoms, your child needs a COVID-19 test.
Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing	
New loss of taste	• Call your child’s healthcare provider for medical advice. • Call 844-857-1814 to schedule a test.
New loss of smell	
Fever (temperature higher than 100.4° or feels feverish to the touch)	If your child has TWO OR MORE of these symptoms, your child needs a COVID-19 test.
Chills	
Muscle or body aches	• Call your child’s healthcare provider for medical advice. • Call 844-857-1814 to schedule a test.
Headache	
Sore throat	If your child has ONLY ONE of these symptoms, • Call your child’s healthcare provider for medical advice. • Keep your child 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 better). • Your child’s healthcare provider may recommend testing.
Fatigue	
Congestion or runny nose (new)	
Nausea or vomiting	
Diarrhea	

**Medical Isolation Space for Suspected COVID-19 Illnesses:**

St. Rocco School has a separate, isolated, well ventilated triage area in the Nurse’s Office area.

- Symptomatic students or staff will be isolated as soon as possible. Isolation is safely and respectfully followed.
- Suspected students/staff will be placed in the designated private room with the door closed.
- This Medical Isolation Room will be closed off and thoroughly cleaned as soon as a student/staff leaves.
- Students are visible to the School Nurse/Staff at all times.
- The term “isolation” is not used or referred to with any students in order to promote a stress free experience for the student. The isolation room is referred to as the “Bubble Room”.

### Faculty/Staff Guidelines for Absence:

- If a faculty/staff member becomes sick with any of the **COVID-19 symptoms** listed from chart, tests positive for COVID-19, or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 (a confirmed or suspected case) they should **NOT** come to school, and must notify the School Office.

### Faculty/Staff Guidelines for Dismissal:

- If you become sick with any of the COVID-19 symptoms listed in the chart notify the School Nurse or School Office immediately.

### WHEN TO RETURN to SCHOOL:

#### If your child had a COVID-19 test, your child can go back to school when you can attest that:

1. You have received all COVID-19 test results and they are negative. **AND**
2. Your child has had no fever for 24 hours without taking fever-reducing medicine. **AND**
3. Your child feels better and their symptoms are better.

#### If your child did not have a COVID-19 test because they only had one of the symptoms in the lower box above, your child can go back to school when you can attest that:

1. Your child has had no fever for 24 hours without taking fever-reducing medicine. **AND**
2. Your child feels better and the symptoms are better.

\*Attestation to return to school should be in written form, please include the testing dates and results if applicable.

**The Return Attestation Form for After Illness and Close Contacts is available on the School Website. Please attach a copy of the results to the attestation form.**

#### If my child is a close contact of someone who has COVID-19:

#### Your child will need to quarantine (stay at home) for 14 days after the day they were in close contact with the person with COVID-19.

Close contact means being within six feet of someone with COVID-19 for 15 minutes or longer. Being that close to a person with COVID-19 for 15 minutes or longer means **you could catch COVID-19** from the person.

If your child has had close contact with someone with COVID-19, someone from RIDOH will call you.

- RIDOH will call you with information about quarantine and how long your child will need to stay at home.
- During quarantine, you should watch your child for symptoms of COVID-19 listed on the first page. If your child feels sick or gets any symptoms during quarantine, follow the instructions in the box on the first page.

#### After being in quarantine, your child can go back to school when:

1. The 14-day quarantine time has ended;
2. Your child feels good and has no symptoms of COVID-19 listed on the first page; **AND**
3. Your child had a negative COVID-19 test result if they were tested.

#### If my child tests positive:

Anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 needs to isolate for at least 10 days. RIDOH will call you to provide you with official information. To return to school the isolation period must be completed, your child must be fever-free for 24 hours without treating with fever-reducing medications, and symptoms are no longer present. If your child tested positive but is asymptomatic, they must isolate for at least 10 days after the COVID test was obtained.

\*Attestation to return to school should be in written form, please include the testing dates and results if applicable. The Return Attestation Form for After Illness and Close Contacts is available on the School Website. Please attach a copy of the results to the attestation form.

\*\* Return procedures are applicable to all students, faculty, and staff.

#### If you are subject to isolation that means:

- Stay home.
- Do not go to work, school, or public areas.
- Do not use public transportation.
- Separate yourself from other people in your home. As much as possible, you should stay in a different room from other people in your home. Also, you should use a separate bathroom, if available.

We are guided by the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) Playbook which can be found on RI.gov. In the event that a student or staff at our school tests positive, the Rhode Island Department of Health will be notified immediately, contact the School Nurse and will start the process of contact tracing. To support fast and efficient contact tracing, it is important that we have the most up-to-date contact information for your child. If that information changes at any point during the school year, please update us.

- A) The School Nurse will work with RIDOH to help identify close contacts and gain a better understanding of the situation and determine appropriate next steps.
- B) Confidentiality will be maintained throughout all school community notification processes.
- C) Additional areas of the school visited by the COVID-19 positive individual may also need to be closed temporarily for cleaning and disinfection.
- D) Continuity of education will be maintained through distance learning.
- E) \*ALL ROOMS UTILIZED AND SURFACES WILL BE CLEANED IMMEDIATELY THROUGHOUT THIS PROCESS.

ALL ABOVE THE PROTOCOLS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE PER RIDOH AND WILL BE UPDATED AS ADVISED.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES CAN BE FOUND ON THE RIDOH WEBSITE.

C.B. ~ Revised 1/19/2021