



TIMES² Academy has its share of COVID cases

TIMES² Academy's first notification of a positive COVID case on campus occurred on September 25th necessitating administration to initiate the Rhode Island Department of Health's COVID case investigation protocol. (See FIGURE 1 for the 3 scenarios of response). Since then the campus has been made aware of 5 adult and 11 child cases of COVID. With each notification, the school responds with immediate notification to RIDOH for verification and a request for investigation to determine close contacts related to the positive person and what the required mitigation response needs to be to decrease the impact to the campus. The school nurse, Rachael Cassidy, serves as our COVID contact between PPSD, RIDOH and the

TIMES² Academy community. As each case is reported, the school must provide RIDOH with seating charts related to all of the potentially impacted areas—classrooms, buses, cafeteria, and the gym; the teacher's instructional techniques to determine possible teacher and peer exposure, schedules for bathroom use and recess, entry and dismissal formats, cleaning and disinfecting schedules, all of which are followed up with additional probing questions that may lead to an answer regarding viral spread and who needs to quarantine and test in order to return to school. With the onset of the holiday and winter seasons,

TIMES² has established an email for families and staff to use in the event of a positive, or even probable, COVID case.

COVID@times2.org

The e-mail, created to protect the privacy of the individual and their family, is directed to our nurse, who will reach out to the individual to begin the collection of information needed by RIDOH. It will also streamline the process of correctly reporting attendance and teacher notification to prepare student work needed during the absence period. We may also continue to contact the nurse directly by calling (401) 272-5094 x427.

We are not sure what the coming months will bring, but feel reassured that our school is responding to all events responsibly and in the best interest of the health and safety of our entire TIMES² Academy family.

Inside this issue:	
The nurse's response to a probable case at school	2
COVID-19 symptoms	2
RIDOH K-12 COVID Testing Scheduling Hotline	2
RIDOH What To Do If...	3
My Before School Be Safe Daily Checklist	3
RIDOH 3 Scenario COVID Communication	4 & 5
November Calendar	4

What we have learned as a result of COVID

Throughout the management process of COVID, we have had the opportunity to work with the Governor's Education Operations Center and the Rhode Island Department of Health and have gained an understanding of what is involved in the COVID fight. Did you know:

- Cases of COVID are higher in families learning remotely, than those in-person;
- The younger the population the more likely social distancing, masking, proper hand-washing and sanitary toileting will not occur;
- We, the school and RIDOH, need to ensure timely, clear and ACCURATE communication in order to expedite the release of information to impacted families and staff;
- Families need to inform the school nurse, not a teacher, if their child or a family member has tested positive. The nurse can then follow-up with the teacher for assignments and, if needed, inform the teacher if they are identified as a close contact based on the epidemiology of the case;

- The moment we are notified of a positive case, it is identified as Day 0 for those who need to quarantine;
- The best time to test if asymptomatic and directed to quarantine is between days 10 - 12 of the quarantine to get a more accurate result;
- The school can 'take a pause' moving from in-person to all remote for a period of time until RIDOH completes its investigation and identification of close contacts, if it is deemed necessary for cleaning and disinfecting, as well as, determine the probable impact on the campus community;
- Everyone is experiencing COVID-fatigue resulting in our not remembering to limit the number of our close contacts to 15, forgetting to properly social distance or keep our masks on when around others;
- People must be patient and kind to one another as we navigate what can be a scary and anxious process. Remember that it's okay not to be okay with all of this, but reach out to someone if support is needed.

If the nurse is presented with a probable case

At the start of each day staff members greet our children at the door to check temperatures and to get a ‘thumbs up’ to the question of ‘how are you feeling today?’ There are times when a staff member or student reports to the nurse not feeling quite themselves. Nurse Cassidy will use the COVID-19 Screening tool and ask a series of questions in addition to taking the person’s temperature. If during this process, the nurse identifies as least 1 MAJOR or 2 MINOR symptoms of COVID, the nurse will contact the guardian to pick up the student immediately. In response to an adult, the adult is sent home immediately.

The nurse must send all probable cases home and out of the building per PPSD and RIDOH until such time the person may return. This might mean the person can return after 24-hours after release IF they are fever-free without using fever-reducing medication or it may mean they may return after having tested to rule out COVID. Either way, our nurse must do her due diligence in keeping us all healthy by keeping in contact with the person sent home and with both PPSD and RIDOH through the reporting protocols. (see copy of After-Illness Attestation form—Figure 2)

To report all probable and positive COVID cases:

Contact: covid@times2.org
Or
the school nurse, Rachael Cassidy at
(401) 272-5094 x427

Symptoms	Must be tested for COVID-19*
Cough	YES
Shortness of breath/Difficulty breathing	YES
Loss of taste	YES
Loss of smell	YES
Fever (greater than 100.4° or feverish to the touch)	YES, if 2 or more of these symptoms
Chills	NO, if only one of these symptoms
Muscle or body aches	NOTE:
Headache	• If a COVID test is negative, the person can return to school when they have had no fever for 24 hours without using a fever-reducing medication and symptoms have improved.
Sore throat	• If test is positive, notify the school nurse immediately and follow all RIDOH isolation instructions
Fatigue	
Congestion/Runny Nose	
Nausea/Vomiting	
Diarrhea	

COVID-19 Testing for K-12 Students and Staff

To schedule a test, call the K-12 COVID-19 test scheduling service at **844-857-1814**, seven days a week from 7:30 a.m. - 9:30 p.m. This service line is only for K-12 staff and students who have symptoms or who have been identified as a close contact of a positive case. Services are available in multiple languages. Notify the representative if you are requesting a COVID-19 test for a student with special healthcare needs. Test site staff will be made aware of any accommodations in advance.

What to expect on the day of the test— A parent or guardian must go to the test site with any child who is younger than 16. Anyone who goes to a test site must wear a mask and follow physical distancing rules. If you or your child are scheduled for a drive-up appointment, please stay in your car and keep the windows closed until someone who works at the test site asks you to open them a little bit. If you are scheduled for a walk-up appointment, people who work at the test site will show you where to go. Anyone who has COVID-19 symptoms will get two tests: a rapid test and a PCR test. Anyone who does not have symptoms but had close contact with someone who has COVID-19 will get a PCR test only. If you need to cancel or reschedule an appointment, call the K-12 COVID-19 test scheduling service.

- Rapid tests are given to staff and students who have COVID-19 symptoms and results are ready typically within 8–12 hours.
- PCR tests are given to staff and student who do not have COVID-19 symptoms, but have been identified as a close contact. Results of this test take longer, anywhere from 24–72 hours.

Contact the K12 COVID-19 test schedule service at 844-857-1814, 7 days a week, between 7:30am–9:30pm, at least 8-12 hours after your rapid test appointment and 48 hours after the PCR test if you need help finding your results. Any of this information may be found on <https://health.ri.gov/covid/testing/k-12/>



My Before School - Be Safe Daily Checklist

I am using this daily checklist to make sure that before I leave the house to get on the school bus, in the car, or walk to school that I am helping to keep my school community and my family healthy and safe.

No one in my family, including me, have been exposed to anyone who has tested positive for COVID in the past 14 days.

- No one in my family, including me, have tested positive for COVID in the past 14 days.
- No one in my family, including me, are waiting for results of a COVID test.
- No one in my family, including me, have been exposed to anyone who is awaiting the results of a COVID test.
- I **do not have any of the symptoms** that are related to COVID, including a fever or chills, a cough, shortness of breath, tiredness, muscle/body aches, headache, sore throat, congestion or a runny nose (the sniffles), vomiting or nausea, diarrhea.
- No one in my family, including me, have been to another state that currently has a greater than 5% rate of COVID. For a current list of states with current RI travel restrictions may be found on the RIDOH website: <https://health.ri.gov/covid/travel/>
- I am aware and follow the state and school's mandate to wear a mask, which covers both my nose and mouth, at all times, during the school day and whenever I ride the school bus.
- I am aware and follow the state and school's mandate to wash my hands with soap and water before I eat, after I use the restroom, and after I come in from recess.

My family and I know that if I cannot check off each one of these boxes:

1. **I am to stay home** and learn remotely until I am able to check-off all boxes.
2. My family is to call and inform the school nurse with the reason why I am not in school.
3. I may need to follow-up with my doctor.
4. I may need to get tested for COVID, especially if I have been exposed to the virus and/or have any of the symptoms.

COVID-19 Testing for K-12 Students and Staff (continued)

What To Do While You Wait For Results

- ⇒ If you have symptoms, isolate yourself from other people in your home as much as possible while you wait for your results. If the result of your rapid test is negative, you must remain in isolation while you wait for your PCR test result.
- ⇒ If you do not have symptoms but have been identified by the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) as a close of someone who has tested positive, stay home and follow quarantine guidance while you wait for the result.

What To Do If You Test Positive

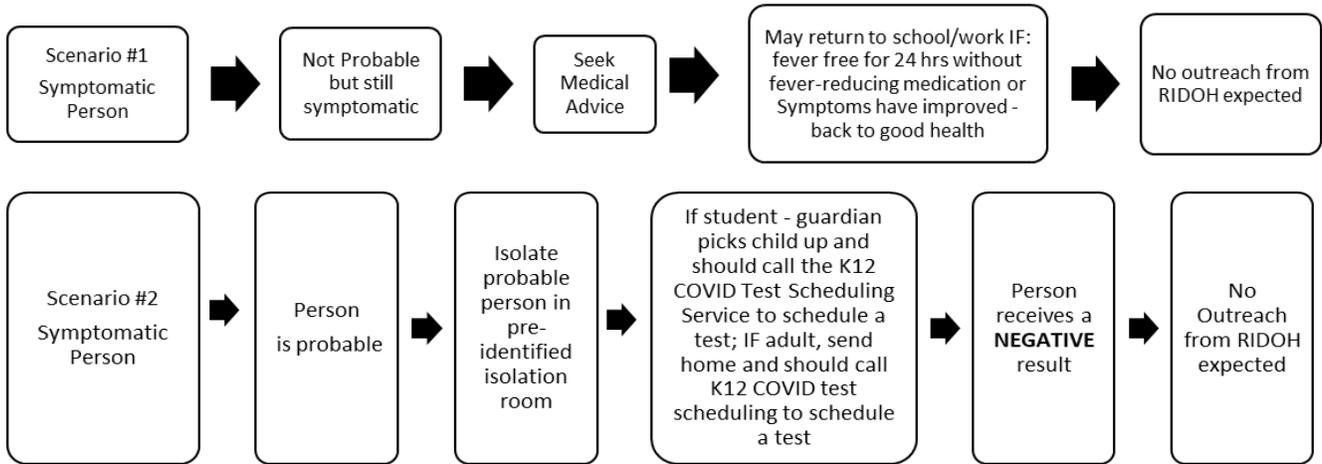
- ⇒ Anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 will be contacted by RIDOH. RIDOH staff will provide you with further guidance and ask you about your close contacts. After speaking with you, RIDOH staff will also talk with your school and school district. **You should also contact the school nurse as well in the event that RIDOH is delayed in communicating your positive result to the school**
- ⇒ Anyone who tests positive needs to isolate for at least 10 days after the first date they developed symptoms. You can return to school or work after 10 days if you have been fever-free for 24 hours without taking a fever-reducing medicine and if your symptoms have improved.
- ⇒ If you tested positive but do not have any COVID-19 symptoms, you must isolate for **10 days** after the date of your PCR test.
- ⇒ Anyone who has been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 should quarantine for 14 days after the last time they had close contact with that person.
- ⇒ If your COVID-19 symptoms get worse, call your primary care provider or your child's pediatrician.

What to Do If You Test Negative

- ⇒ If the person tested is the close contact of a positive case, they need to complete their quarantine period, regardless of a negative result. An additional test should be done between days 10 and 12 of the quarantine, even if asymptomatic as this is most often the time period the virus can be identified in an exposed person who may have tested negative earlier in the quarantine.
- ⇒ If the person tested was not a close contact and the test result is negative, they can go back to work or school after symptoms have improved and they have been fever-free for 24 hours without using a fever-reducing medication. Do not go to work or school if you feel sick.

TIMES² Academy – RIDOH Communication for 3 Possible Scenarios

FIG. 1



Note: Identified asymptomatic close contacts may be asked to test between day 10 and 12 of quarantine to ensure that they are virus-free and ready to return to school.

School staff will notify classroom teacher of student absence for preparation of schoolwork; Adult staff are to notify PPSD HR with email or call and follow-up documentation for Aesop and coverage

How is 'close contact' defined? Being within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15-minutes in a 24-hour period

Close contacts that are directed by RIDOH to quarantine and who are asymptomatic should plan to test between the 10th and 12th day of quarantine to ensure they are virus-free and able to return to school.

November Happenings:

- 3rd—NO SCHOOL— Election Day 2020
- 9th—Expected return of all K–12 student remote from pause to in-person instruction
- 10th—**Financial Aid Night** at 6:00 PM—There will be a virtual presentation to learn more about the college financial process from Solanchi Fernandez from the College Planning Center of Rhode Island. She will discuss the different types of financial aid available to students and their families, including the FAFSA, to help cover the cost of college
- 11th—NO SCHOOL— Veterans Day
- 16th—Distance Learning for ALL students K–12; Teacher Professional Development
- 18th—End of First Quarter
- 24th—First Quarter Report Cards mailed home
- 25th–27th—Thanksgiving Recess
- 30th—End of Learning Option Commitment #2

ALL families need to complete next forms next round of commitment for December 1st–January 4th to either continue current option or change their option.



Check out our website for the latest news and Learning Option Commitment form!

times2.org

TIMES² Academy – RIDOH Communication for 3 Possible Scenarios

An infected person can spread COVID starting from 48 hours before the person shows any symptoms or tests positive for COVID.

IMPORTANT

Contacts

To **report a COVID probable or positive case**

Email: COVID@times2.org
OR call Nurse Rachael at (401) 272- 5094 x427

To **report a student's absence**

Call 401-272-5094

press 8 at the prompt to leave your child's name, grade, reason for absence and a call back number.

Schools will communicate information with students and staff who are NOT close contacts.

Scenario #3
Symptomatic person

Person is probable

If school nurse becomes aware of a symptomatic or probable case; person sent home with directions to monitor and/or test before returning to school

RIDOH will provide information to the school and superintendent on identity of case and close contacts, what those individuals need to do before returning to school (quarantine, test, etc.) and communications to push out to full school community

Student guardians or adult staff who receive a **POSITIVE** test result for themselves or a family they reside with, are to contact the **school nurse IMMEDIATELY** to begin the RIDOH notification and verification process of possible close contacts.

Person receives a **POSITIVE** result

This time between notification to RIDOH and RIDOH case investigation completion and final directive may vary in time necessitating the school to 'take a pause' from in-person and begin transition in part or whole K-12 school, into remote learning until such time as mitigation of issues and requirements are complete.

RIDOH contacts student guardian or positive adult and identifies close contacts. RIDOH provides information regarding isolation and quarantine requirements.

RIDOH becomes aware of confirmed positive through testing lab, positive person or school nurse requesting verification of parent or staff self-report case.

RIDOH staff gather information using RIDE Probable Portal and data from school SIS system. School provides seating charts and potential close contacts

THE COUNSELOR'S CORNER

- **SAT** - The School Day SAT for seniors was not held in October due to remote learning. There are not other School Day SAT dates for the fall. All seniors should register for an upcoming Saturday exam on November 7th, and / or December 5th. Ms. Kurek has fee waivers to cover the cost of the exam(s) if a senior has not yet requested one. It is very important each senior take the SAT exam at least once for their college applications.
- **PSAT 8/9 and PSAT/NMSQT** - The School Day PSAT 8/9 and PSAT/NMSQT were not held in October due to remote learning. Students in grades 8 - 11 will take the appropriate PSAT level exam in January. More information will be forwarded in December.
- **FAFSA** - All parents / guardians of senior students need to complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). The FAFSA is used to determine need based aid for college tuition. **This application needs to be completed by the parents / guardi-**

ans, and NOT the student. The FAFSA website

is: <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>. There are several options for assistance with completing the FAFSA.

- **RISLA** (Rhode Island Student Loan Authority) is offering free, individual appointments, seven days a week, to assist parents / guardians with completion of the FAFSA. Spanish speaking counselors available. You can book an appointment by visiting: <https://www.risla.com/en-us/college-planning-center>
- **Solanchi Fernandez from the College Planning Center of Rhode Island** is offering free, individual, appointments to assist with the FAFSA completion process throughout the day on Friday, December 4th. Solanchi does speak Spanish. Email Ms. Kurek at rkurek@times2.org for more information.

Hello TIMES2 Community!

This is Mr. Darigan, the Middle School Counselor. I have been really impressed with how our students have continued to work hard through challenging circumstances. That's why we've decided to celebrate the character trait of perseverance in November. We have a Google classroom designed for 6th to 8th graders where you can express yourself and see what other students are thinking and doing. SHOUT OUT! a classmate, submit artwork to the TIMES² 3D Gallery, or write a poem and maybe win a prize, just for starters. I will be expanding the site weekly with video testimonials, other fun stuff, and helpful resources for students and parents. If you are in 6th, 7th, or 8th grade, please join our google classroom today! Class code: veucaew

Thank you!

Mr. D