

Dear Parents and Families,

The purpose of this letter is to clarify recent changes in the Rhode Island Department of Health Pre-K to 12 Playbook and Governor McKee's Executive Orders. <https://governor.ri.gov/executive-orders/executive-order-21-94>

Mask Mandate:

The Lincoln School Department is following the mask mandate declared by Governor McKee on August 19, 2021 which states, "It is required that all students, staff members, visitors, and vendors wear a mask when entering and while within the school building."

Revised definition of a probable case and Covid testing updates:

Should a child have ONE of the following symptoms below during the school day, they will be sent home and referred for COVID-19 testing. A negative PCR is needed to return to school.

Symptoms of COVID-19:

- Cough (new)
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- New loss of taste or smell

Unvaccinated, asymptomatic siblings will **NOT be** sent home with the ill child. If the child tests positive, then the sibling will have to follow the quarantine guidelines from the RIDOH. Click here → [Outbreak Response Protocol](#) for more information.

Please send a screenshot of the PCR results to your school nurse. **Negative Antigen (Rapid BINAX) tests are not accepted.**

If your child has TWO or more of the following symptoms below during the school day, they will be sent home and referred for COVID-19 testing. A negative PCR is needed to return to school.

Symptoms of COVID-19:

- Fever or chills
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Fatigue
- Congestion or runny nose (new)
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Please note that if your child has tested negative, and is still having symptoms, the RIDOH guidelines for returning to school are that the student is fever free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medications and symptoms are improved (back to usual health).

Close Contact Quarantine Guidance:

If your child is identified as a close contact in school or on the bus you will be contacted by a district COVID coordinator or your school nurse and one of the following will apply:

- **Vaccinated Students**

According to the new Executive Orders your child **WILL** have to get a COVID test but **WILL NOT** have to quarantine while waiting for results.

- **Unvaccinated Students**

- According to the RIDOH guidelines your child should test immediately and 3-5 days after a known exposure, per Governor McKee's EO, and will have to be quarantined for 10 days. A student may return on day 11 if they have a negative **PCR** test and have no symptoms.
- The **quarantine can be shortened** to 7 days with a return date on day 8 **IF** your child is tested on day 5 or after from the last day of exposure and the **PCR** test results are negative and they have no symptoms. If symptoms develop, students need to stay home and get retested.
- If you **DO NOT** want to have your child tested they will have to remain in quarantine for the full 10 days, with a return date on day 11 provided they have no symptoms.

- **Quarantine Exemptions:**

- Your child **MAY BE** exempt from quarantine **IF** they fall under the **RIDOH** exemption guidelines stating:
 1. **The contact was indoors**
 2. **The contact was another k-12 student**
 3. **Masks were worn**
 4. **They were 3 ft. apart or more**

Isolation for COVID positive students:

- **Symptomatic:**

- At least 10 days since symptoms first appeared (20 days if severely immunocompromised), at least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication **and** Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving.

- **Asymptomatic:**

- 10 days from the date the individual was tested (20 days if severely immunocompromised) with a return date of day 11.

If your child has tested positive for COVID 19 in the last 90 days, please inform your school nurse.

If your child has been fully vaccinated, you can send in a copy of the vaccination card to your school nurse.

After Quarantine or Isolation School Guidance:

Before your child returns to school, please complete the following steps:

- Provide results to your school nurse upon return to school. This can be done via email at gaughanj@lioncolnps.org or 401-721-3404.

Updated Travel Guidelines;

Travel Guidelines- Domestic:

- At this time there are **NO** restrictions for domestic traveling (in the United States), however, we **STRONGLY RECOMMEND** that **UNvaccinated** domestic travelers get tested 3 to 5 days after travel. This is important for continuity of instruction for our classes and our schools. Please continue to monitor for symptoms for 14 days and get tested and quarantine if any symptoms develop.

Quarantine- International Travelers:

- Anyone traveling internationally (outside of the United States) are **required** to quarantine for 10 days or get a test after day 5 of returning and if negative can end quarantine on day 8. Please continue to monitor for symptoms for 14 days and get tested and quarantine if any symptoms develop.

Where to go for Testing:

- If your child develops symptoms, please contact your child's healthcare provider and schedule a COVID-19 test. Staff or students with symptoms, or who are close contacts or classmates of a person with COVID-19 can call the K-12 COVID-19 Test Scheduling Service at 844-857-1814 or visit portal.ri.gov to schedule a test. Testing is free of charge.

Student Absences:

- We recommend that you or your child email their teachers if they will be out for an illness or an extended period of time to access their school work.

We appreciate your cooperation in these unprecedented times, and as always feel free to contact me at 401-721-3404 or by email at gaughanj@lincolnps.org.

Healthy Regards,

Jennifer Gaughan

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