

# REOPENING RI

## COVID-19 Testing and Contact Tracing Guidance for Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs)

### WHEN A CONFIRMED CASE OF COVID-19 HAS BEEN ON CAMPUS:

- Report lab confirmed positive to Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) within 24 hours
- Work with RIDOH to determine quarantine and isolation, as well as cancellation of classes and other activities, and closure of buildings and facilities
- Communicate with students, staff, and faculty
- Clean and disinfect thoroughly
- Implement strategies to continue education and other related supports for students

### DEFINITION OF CLOSE CONTACTS

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 (i.e. an infected person coughs in your face)



### WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN RIDOH CALLS A POSITIVE CASE

#### PRE-INTERVIEW/INFORMATION GATHERING PERIOD

-  COVID-19 lab results are received by RIDOH
-  Case entered into RIDOH database
-  Epidemiologists assign cases to nurses & case investigators to gather information

#### CASE INTERVIEW PERIOD

-  Call COVID-19 case
-  Collect demographic information
-  Collect symptom information
-  Obtain medical history
-  Elicit contacts
-  Counsel case on isolation measures, considerations for campus housing contacts, and initiate monitoring
-  Conclude interview

#### POST INTERVIEW PERIOD

-  Call contacts of index case
-  Counsel contact on quarantine measure and other considerations
-  Institutional/workplace follow-up
-  Case closeout



## ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE GUIDANCE

**ISOLATION** Updated as of July 20, 2020. Stay updated [here](#) as criteria change periodically  
Confirmed case must isolate until CDC/RIDOH symptom-based criteria for ending isolation are met:

For a **symptomatic** person testing positive:

Use the symptom-based strategy for discontinuing isolation:

- Fever free for 24 hours (without use of fever medication); **AND**
- Symptoms have improved; **AND**
- 10 days since symptoms first appeared (20 days if severely immunocompromised<sup>3</sup>.)

For an **asymptomatic** person testing positive:

Use the time-based strategy for discontinuing isolation:

- 10 days since date of specimen collection (20 days if severely immunocompromised<sup>3</sup>.)  
If symptoms develop, use the symptom-based strategy above.

**Note:** the test-based criteria for ending isolation is not recommended. After a person is diagnosed with COVID-19 by a positive test, additional tests are not necessary or recommended and are strongly discouraged.

**QUARANTINE** Updated as of August 3, 2020. Stay updated [here](#) as criteria change periodically

Quarantine is for people who are not sick, but may have been exposed.

- A close contact is home quarantined for 14 days after last exposure to the confirmed case.
- If the close contact lives in the same campus housing, the 14 days of quarantine starts when the confirmed case ends isolation. A campus housing close contact who has ongoing exposure to the confirmed case is usually quarantined for at least 24 days (date the person with COVID-19 ends minimum 10 day home isolation + 14 days).

## INFORMATION SHARING BETWEEN IHEs & RIDOH

- If an IHE has cases of COVID-19, RIDOH will notify you and discuss next steps.
- If RIDOH determines there is substantial transmission of COVID-19 within and around the IHE community, they will provide guidance to administrators on the best course of action for IHE.
- E-mail the RIDOH Higher Ed team at [RIDOH.COVIDHighEd@health.ri.gov](mailto:RIDOH.COVIDHighEd@health.ri.gov) to report a case or if you have any questions or call the COVID Hotline at 401-654-6990 for emergent issues.

### ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE:

- [RIDOH Phase III Guidance for Adult Classes](#)
- [RIDOH Quarantine and Isolation Guidance](#)
- [Interim Guidance for Administrators of US Institutions of Higher Education](#)

## GUIDANCE FOR IHEs USING RAPID TESTS

| SCENARIO  | RECOMMENDATION   |
|---|--|
| If rapid test result is <b>positive (+)</b>                                 | Isolate case   |
| If rapid test result is <b>negative (-)</b> and case is <b>symptomatic</b>  | Isolate case and wait for nasal PCR swab result to come back       |
| If rapid test result is <b>negative (-)</b> and case is <b>asymptomatic</b> | Don't isolate case and wait for nasal PCR swab result to come back |

Last updated: 08/24/2020