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

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

CASE INTERVIEW PERIOD

1. Call COVID-19 case
2. Collect demographic information
3. Collect symptom information
4. Obtain medical history
5. Elicit contacts
6. Counsel case on isolation measures, considerations for campus housing contacts, and initiate monitoring
7. Conclude interview

POST INTERVIEW PERIOD

1. Call contacts of index case
2. Counsel contact on quarantine measure and other considerations
3. Institutional/workplace follow-up
4. 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).  

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).  
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.COVIDHighedEd@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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCENARIO</th>
<th>RECOMMENDATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If rapid test result is <strong>positive (+)</strong></td>
<td>Isolate case</td>
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<tr>
<td>If rapid test result is <strong>negative (-)</strong> and case is <strong>symptomatic</strong></td>
<td>Isolate case and wait for nasal PCR swab result to come back</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If rapid test result is <strong>negative (-)</strong> and case is <strong>asymptomatic</strong></td>
<td>Don’t isolate case and wait for nasal PCR swab result to come back</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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.

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An official publication of the State of Rhode Island.