



Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education  
[255 Westminster Street | Providence, RI 02903](https://www.doe.state.ri.us/)

Dear East Providence Families,

Please see the latest information from the Rhode Island Department of Education as it pertains to guidelines and protocols COVID infections and quarantines.

*...earlier this week, our national public health experts issued updated guidance on isolation and quarantining. While we're working hard to incorporate that new guidance into our state-level guidelines for schools, we want to update you on our plans for Rhode Island's return to school on January 3rd, 2022.*

*Out of an abundance of caution and with the safety of our school communities in mind, Rhode Island will not be immediately adopting the new CDC guidance into our schools as we are expecting additional information from the federal government that could help shape final school policy changes. **When school reopens on Monday, we will follow the same guidance that we were following before the holiday break.***

*In the meantime, recently released CDC guidance and potential policy changes are being fully reviewed for implementation. During the upcoming week, the State of Rhode Island will work alongside our local education leaders, labor representatives, and other stakeholders to update new K-12 guidance that will meet the needs of our schools and families and reflect the new CDC guidance, including shorter quarantine periods for asymptomatic close contacts and shorter isolation periods for individuals with confirmed cases of COVID-19.*

*Our goal is to avoid confusion while we ensure that any future protocols implemented in our schools maintain the health, safety, and smooth operations of our school communities in the weeks and months to come.*

*Schools remain one of the safest places for students and staff. Over the past two years, COVID-19 spread inside schools remains limited due to layered prevention strategies in a structured setting. From early September 2021, less than 10% of the Pre K-12 student and staff cases were reported as due only to an exposure inside schools. This measured approach will ensure that our schools continue to be safe from the spread of COVID-19.*

The East Providence School Department will update all families when changes to the guidelines and protocols are updated. At this time, schools will reopen on Monday, January 3rd following the 2021-2022 school year reopening plan.

Thank you,  
East Providence School Department