

9/28/2020

## Health and Safety Update

Dear Parents/Guardians-

Matunuck Elementary School is excited to be opening the doors and welcoming all students for in person learning on a staggered start schedule. I would like to provide some important information regarding the Daily COVID-19 changes and expectations.

Families are expected to **log into your child's Skyward account every morning** and complete the COVID-19 screening questions and attest that your child is well. If your child has symptoms, keep them home and follow the RIDOH guidelines around students presenting with any COVID-19 symptoms.



**If you have never logged into Skyward before** please see directions [HERE](#).

<https://sites.google.com/sksd-ri.net/south-kingstown-technology-dep/skyward-for-families>

**Please keep your child home if sick or has symptoms of COVID- 19.** RIDOH has made it clear to school nurses, that there needs to be a low threshold for illness. They have instructed us to send students home with any symptom of COVID-19, even if the symptom does not indicate a probable case of COVID-19. If a student has a new onset of any symptom, the parent will be called to pick up their child.

**Parents will be expected to pick up a sick child or have them picked up within 1 hour.** Please be sure we have your updated contacts and all phone numbers so that your child does not have long to wait. In all cases, the RIDOH advises that parents of symptomatic students seek medical advice and a Covid test if recommended. A probable case is a student with **one of the following symptoms:**

- Cough
- Difficulty Breathing or Shortness of Breath
- New Loss of Taste
- New loss of Smell

**OR two of the following symptoms:**

- Fever or Chills
- Muscle or Body Aches
- Runny Nose or Nasal Congestion
- Headache
- Fatigue
- Sore Throat
- Nausea or Vomiting
- Diarrhea

If the student is a probable case, the student must be tested for COVID-19 before they can return to school and the school must report it to RIDOH.

**[RI COVID Testing Information for PreK-12 Students - CLICK HERE for more information- https://health.ri.gov/covid/testing/k-12/](https://health.ri.gov/covid/testing/k-12/)**

If the test is positive, the student must follow the RIDOH guidelines for isolation probable 10 days.

If the test is negative, the student may return to school if they remain fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication, and symptoms have improved or resolved (back to usual health).

**What about a single symptom that falls into the second list, like a runny nose or a headache?** If the symptom is a new onset (developed within the last 24 hours) the student should stay home or, if the symptom first presents at school, the student will need to go home. The student must be fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and the symptoms improve or resolve, then the student is welcome to return to school. Even in this case, the RIDOH recommends that parents of the symptomatic student seek medical advice.

If your child is returning to school after any illness, parents should fill out the [After Illness Attestation Form](https://health.ri.gov/publications/assessments/After-Illness-Return-Attestation.pdf). The school has copies or you can find the link [HERE: https://health.ri.gov/publications/assessments/After-Illness-Return-Attestation.pdf](https://health.ri.gov/publications/assessments/After-Illness-Return-Attestation.pdf) Once completed, this form should be delivered to the school nurse.

### **When can a child or staff member return to school after travel?**

- The preferred method is to quarantine for 14 days after returning to RI from international travel or travel to a US state where > 5% of COVID tests are positive
- COVID-19 can develop any time between 2-14 days after exposure.
- Quarantining for 14 days before returning to school is the best way to reduce the chance of exposing the school community to COVID.

Thank you in advance for helping us keep our Matunuck School community healthy and safe by following these guidelines. Your child's health is our priority.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 360-1259 or [dlennon@sksd-ri.net](mailto:dlennon@sksd-ri.net).

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