



RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL VACCINATION EVENTS

August 13, 2021

To Rhode Island Students and Families/Guardians:

On behalf of the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) and the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH), we are very pleased to share a continued opportunity for eligible students and school communities to get vaccinated against COVID-19. We are collaborating with Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and municipal partners to hold **local vaccination events for students 12 or older, and their families, in all cities and towns starting in August.**

- Each local event is being set up by municipalities and schools to best serve each community. They will share the details when the plans are ready;
- **Please sign up as soon as possible at your preferred vaccination site;** and
- If you cannot make your local vaccination event, please register for another appointment at C19vaccineRI.org.

During the 2020-21 school year, Rhode Island schools were one of the safest places for students and staff with regard to COVID-19 exposure due to mitigation strategies like masking, distancing, and testing. However, there has been a **significant increase in cases in Rhode Island, including among school-aged children due to the COVID-19 Delta variant.** The COVID-19 Delta variant spreads more easily and quickly than other variants. It's now the primary variant in Rhode Island and across the country.

Rhode Island recently updated the [Pre K-12 School Health and Safety Guidance for Fall 2021](#). As noted in the guidance, **vaccination is one of the best ways to keep students safe and learning in person.** [COVID-19 vaccines help protect against the Delta variant of COVID-19.](#) It takes five weeks from the first shot to be fully vaccinated, so it's important that those who are eligible get vaccinated as soon as possible. For those younger than the age of 12, layering mitigation strategies, such as proper masking, physical distancing, hand hygiene, and testing, will help protect students from COVID-19 and keep them in school.

If you develop symptoms of COVID-19, even if they are mild or seem like seasonal allergies, you should get tested to be sure. Research shows people can have COVID-19 and not have any symptoms, so we also encourage you to **participate in asymptomatic COVID-19 screening and testing, which may also be offered at your school.**

If you have not yet done so, we urge you to take this opportunity to get vaccinated and take another big step forward to protecting yourself, your family, and our communities.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicole Alexander-Scott". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Nicole Alexander-Scott, MD, MPH
Director of Health

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "a. Infante-Green". The signature is cursive and elegant, with the first name being the most prominent.

Angélica Infante-Green
Commissioner of Education