



RIDE Rhode Island
Department
of Education

September 4, 2020
Education Operations Center
255 Westminster St. Providence, RI 02903

Dear Local Education Agency Leader,

The Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) and the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) appreciate your participation in the COVID-19 Facilities and Physical Plant Walkthroughs. Walkthrough teams met with administrative and physical plant leaders in your school(s) to complete the [COVID-19 Facilities and Physical Plant School Checklist](#) and to engage with staff regarding any challenges they are having to prepare schools to reopen.

RIDOH and RIDE request that you reach out to school principals in your Local Education Agency (LEA) to review copies of the checklist(s) in order to address items that were marked "in progress" or were answered with "no" prior to the start of on-site learning. It is important to have as many mitigation layers as possible in place to protect staff and students.

Of heightened concern, and which requires immediate attention, one or more of the schools in your LEA answered "in progress" or "no" to at least one of the following questions:

- **Q1. Does the school have a plan to screen all entrants into the building for signs and symptoms of COVID-19?**
- **Q18. Does each room have sufficient ventilation to accommodate four to six air changes per hour? *This is critical for rooms that you plan to use for on-site learning.***
- **Q28. Has the school identified an isolation room or area to separate anyone who has COVID-19 symptoms or who has tested positive but does not have symptoms?**

For each school answering "in progress" or "no" to any of the three questions above, you must reply within 48 hours of receipt of this letter to attest that these items will be in place prior to the start of in-person learning. If you cannot attest to having these items addressed, we will be in contact regarding next steps.

Should you need technical assistance or have questions, please email or call the LEA assistance teams at: **(401)451-1907 or edocrhodeisland@gmail.com**

Thank you for your attention to these matters and for your partnership as we work together to ensure a safe return for staff and students to in-person learning.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Nicole E. Alexander-Scott.

Nicole E. Alexander-Scott, MD, MPH
Director
RI Department of Health

Handwritten signature of Angelica Infante-Green.

Angelica Infante-Green
Commissioner
RI Department of Education