



BVP Board Presentation: Reopening Safely 2021-2022 UPDATE

September 20, 2021



RHODE ISLAND
MAYORAL ACADEMIES
opening schools. opening minds.

Welcome!

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Our Mission

To prepare every scholar for success in college and the world beyond.



Previously Board Adopted Policies

- Universal masking
- Strongly promote vaccination of all who are eligible
- Require weekly tests for unvaccinated staff and athletes
- Conduct on-site surveillance testing for unvaccinated scholars
- Enforce quarantine and isolation requirements
- Limit visitation to those who are vaccinated or can prove a recent negative COVID test
- [Complete Policy Recommendation](#)



Additional Policies Implemented by CEO since the August board meeting

- As communicated by the CEO to the board on September 8, 2021

Going forward, BVP requires all new hires to BVP be vaccinated for COVID-19 by the first day of employment.



BVP policy aligns with White House September 9 vaccine/testing directive

Federal VACCINE MANDATES

- – All federal workers and contractors must get vaccinated, with limited exceptions.
- – Private employers with 100 or more workers will have to require them to be **vaccinated** or **tested weekly**. Employers must provide paid time off for vaccination.



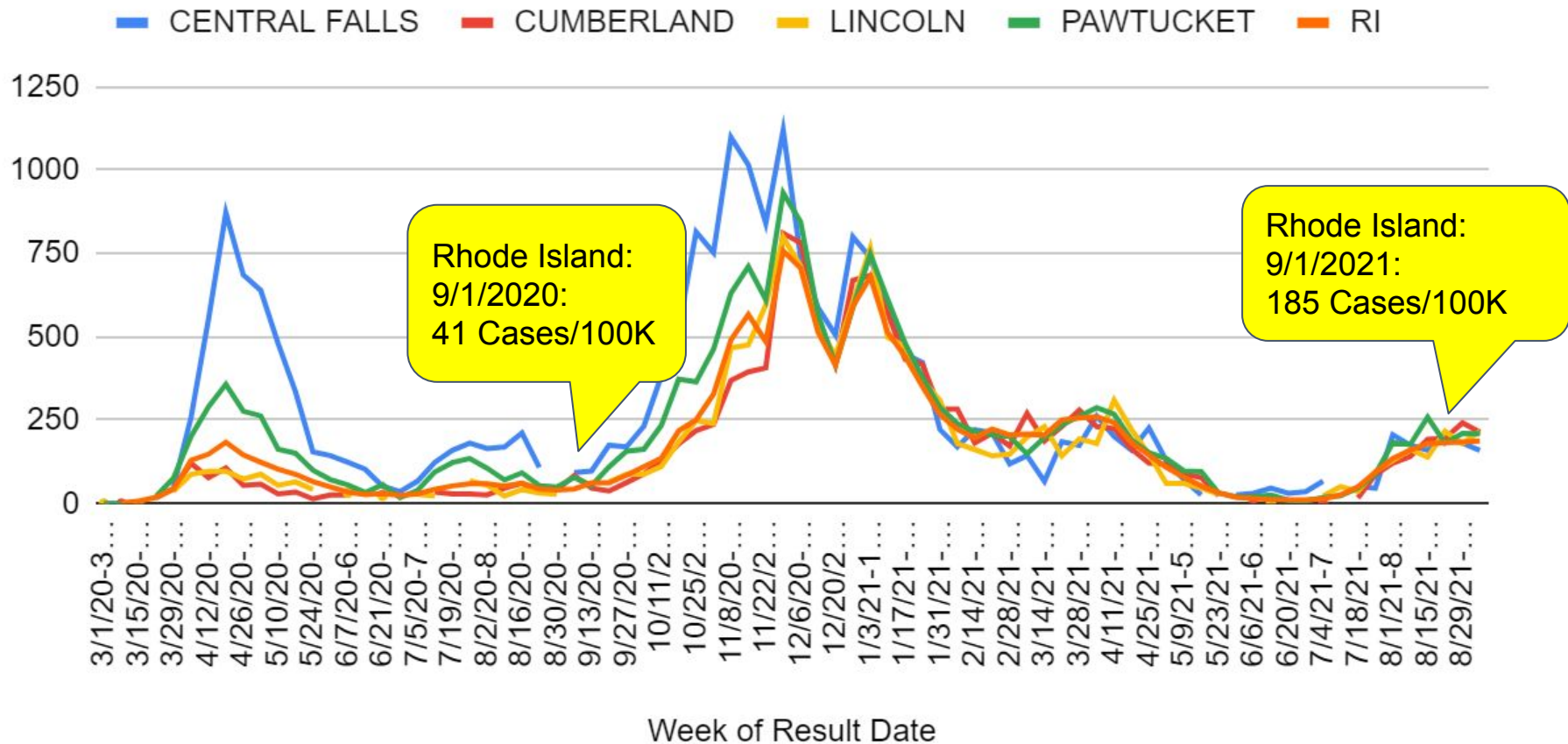
BVP Status Update

TODAY WE LEARN. TOMORROW WE LEAD.



RI & BVP Community Data is far from the peak, but >400% above this time last year

CENTRAL FALLS, CUMBERLAND, LINCOLN, PAWTUCKET and TOTAL



Key differences between this time last year and now

Fall 2020	Fall 2021
Staged opening of classrooms	Full reopening
Offered Distance Learning ($\frac{1}{3}$ participated)	No distance learning offered
Alpha Variant	Delta Variant
One-third bus capacity	Full bus capacity
Six feet of distancing	<3 feet of distancing
No vaccines	Vaccines available Ages 12+



BVP opening has been challenging, to say the least

- **Since 8/15, we have been deeply impacted by COVID19:**
 - 28 scholar cases (1 breakthrough)
 - 11 staff cases (7 breakthrough)
- These cases have resulted in at least eight full classroom closures (usually for about a week, but varies by case), and at least five partial or full bus closures
- In all, over 350 people have been contacted by the BVP nursing team regarding close contact status



Good News: BVP cases have been manageable

- **Zero known hospitalizations among scholars and staff this year**
 - Some are fully asymptomatic
 - Most report mild symptoms, and
 - Some have reported intense symptoms

“I don’t remember ever being sick since childhood, and this kicked my butt. I can’t imagine how bad it would have been if I hadn’t been vaccinated.” -Staff member

Troubling News: Breakthrough cases

- **Illustrative Scholar Case**

- JHS or HS scholar fully vaccinated. Came to school with one very mild symptom. Went to the nurse and was sent for a COVID PCR test which came back positive.
 - 40 scholars and staff identified as potential close contacts,
 - 32 were fully vaccinated and told to get tested in days 3-5 of exposure, and continue to attend school,
 - 8 were unvaccinated and were told to be tested immediately, quarantine, and test again between days 5-7 and return with a negative PCR on day 8.

No known school spread from this case.

Troubling News: Breakthrough cases

- **Illustrative Staff Case**

- Fully vaccinated elementary staff member & unvaccinated elementary scholar symptomatic and positive around the same time
 - 28 scholars identified as close contacts
 - None of the 28 scholars eligible for vaccination and directed to test immediately, test again on days 5-7, and directed to quarantine
 - At least 8 scholars in this classroom have tested positive
 - 7 staff members identified as close contacts
 - Most but not all were vaccinated, thus most were able to continue to work. All were recommended to get tested between days 3-5.
 - Note: source of spread unclear if from scholar-teacher-scholars, or teacher-scholars, or scholar-scholar-teacher

Significant school spread from this case.

BVP is not alone



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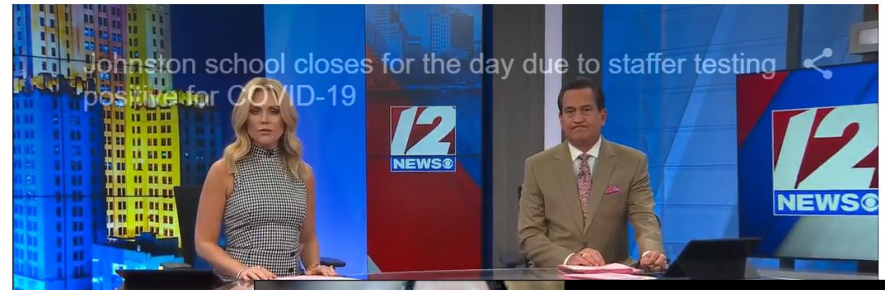


The high school football season officially kicked off last Monday and COVID has struck before a single game could be played.

More: [AT THE SCHOOLS: Time to ramp up high school coverage](#)

SCHOOL UPDATES

Johnston school closes for the day due to staffer testing positive for COVID-19



Testing at BVP

- **Grant funded school-based testing:**
 - Hiring of two CNAs who start this month to support school-based testing
 - Lead Nurse trained to train other nurses on school-based testing
 - Intend to launch early October weekly surveillance testing
- **State-run PCR testing at all six schools to help safely launch the year**
 - Three schools have completed testing, three are in process; 600+ tests conducted with two positive results
- **Required surveillance testing of unvaccinated staff has yielded one positive result**



Path Forward

- Continue to promote vaccination among scholars, staff, and families to form protective layer around our scholars
- Promote booster shots for those eligible
- Begin now to prepare to promote vaccination for younger scholars if/when approved
- Implement surveillance testing
- Pursue “test and stay” program
- Work with RIDE re: attendance requirements and reporting for those directed to stay home

Ultimate goal: preserve in-person instruction



Potential Policy Shifts

- Expand requirement for staff vaccination/testing
 - Require vaccination and/or increase testing frequency for all staff
 - Require vaccination and/or increase testing frequency for certain roles (e.g. athletic coaches, 1:1s)
- Expand requirement for scholar vaccination/testing
 - Require vaccination and/or require testing for all scholars
 - Require vaccination and/or increase testing requirements for scholar athletes and competitive club participants



Discussion

TODAY WE LEARN. TOMORROW WE LEAD.





Vote?

TODAY WE LEARN. TOMORROW WE LEAD.

