

Rite of Passage
Policy and Procedure

Policy Number:	600.358 ADD
Policy Name:	Home Passes During an Epidemic or Pandemic
Program Type:	All

Policy:

In the event of a pandemic in the communities that ROP operates, the continual health, safety and welfare of youth and staff shall be paramount and ROP shall exercise the utmost caution to prevent the transmission of the presenting virus. During the pandemic, ROP shall support the continued interactions of youth and their family members and loved ones including, to the greatest extent in which ROP can safely manage, the continued use of home passes by ROP youth.

Procedure:

Home Pass Authorization

In the event of a pandemic across the United States we can expect the intensity of the infected population to vary from state to state or even community to community. Students who are fully vaccinated (two weeks after their second dose with a two-dose vaccine or two weeks after a single dose vaccine) are automatically eligible for a home pass. For students who are not fully vaccinated, Site Leadership shall assess the positivity rate of the county of the youth's home pass location prior to considering home pass eligibility and review the trajectory of positive cases within the applicable community. Positivity rates can be reviewed on either state or county Health Department websites.

If the county where the student is traveling to has a low positivity rate (<5%), the home pass is automatically eligible for approval. For counties where the positivity rate is moderate (between 5% and less than 8%), home passes can be considered for eligibility on a case-by-case basis. Site Leadership shall at a minimum:

- Determine if the positivity rate in the county where the home pass will occur has increased or decreased in recent weeks
- Consider the number of family members in the household
- Consider if family members in the home are immunocompromised or considered high risk

In counties where the positivity rate is substantial or high, indicated by a positivity rate of 8% or higher, home passes are automatically ineligible and alternatives for family re-unification will be necessary.

Site Leadership may engage in one or more of the following options:

1. Work with the placing agency to postpone the home pass until the risk of infection is lessened and arrange for alternatives to the home pass such as use of video conferencing and/or on-site family visits.
2. Work with the placing agency to discharge a youth in lieu of sending the youth on a home pass if the youth is almost complete with the program and it would be in the best interest of the youth and the site to not have the youth return and be placed in quarantine for 7-14 days per the protocols described below.

Recommended Home Pass Off-Site Safety Protocols

Home passes that are approved to counties where the positivity rates are considered low or moderate, will require protocols to be followed during the home pass and upon return to campus. Site Leadership shall work with youth and their families to educate them on measures they ~~can~~ must take to be less likely to contract the virus during the home pass. Specifically, Site Leadership shall complete the following actions prior to the start of the home pass:

1. Meet with the youth to review steps that can be taken to limit the potential spread of the virus and his/her responsibilities to stay safe while on the home pass, i.e. wearing a mask while off campus (site will provide), maintaining social distancing, increased hand washing or use of hand sanitizer (site will provide), and limit activities outside of the home and in large gatherings.
2. Provide the family with a letter outlining the expectations that the program has on the family and their efforts to limit potential exposure to the youth during the home pass and any educational materials regarding the virus.
3. Provide the youth and/or family with a small supply of surgical masks to use during the home pass, if needed.
4. Explain to the family the importance of immediately contacting the site if during the home pass or following the home pass, they become knowledgeable of an exposure the youth had to someone who has confirmed COVID-19

Protocols for Youth Returning from a Home Pass

Site Leadership shall proceed with the following actions upon the youth's return to site:

1. Youth shall change clothes immediately upon returning to the site, prior to entering the cottage, and shall place their clothes in a bag separate from others.
2. Youth shall then shower upon entering the cottage and the youth shall not interact with any other youth until the shower is complete.
3. Youth shall be provided a KN-95 mask to which will be replaced every 3rd day.
4. Youth shall be placed within their assigned cottage and continue schedule with heightened mitigation strategies, such as increased symptom monitoring (3x per day), social distancing, hand washing and proper PPE, until results of the COVID-19 PCR test is known
5. The youth will be administered a COVID-19 PCR test on or after the 5th day upon returning from the home pass
 - a. If a youth remains symptom-free and the test result is negative, the youth may return to normal programming after day 7 and symptom monitoring can be discontinued and the KN95 mask may be replaced with a cotton or surgical mask.
 - b. If the youth develops symptom(s) before or after the COVID-19 PCR test and/or the test result is positive, the student shall immediately be placed in medical isolation and the cottage group he/she is assigned to must immediately be placed in quarantine.
6. In the event a student test result is positive, the site shall implement protocols outlined in policy 700.118 Epidemic Pandemic Plan & Protocol and any related ROP policies.


Related Policies:

600.358 Student Home Pass Policy

700.118 Epidemic Pandemic Plan Protocol

700.118 ADD Phased Approach to Safe Operations

Policy Version History and Reference Information

Date & Version #	Details	Approved By:
11/12/20 v1	Policy created	Rusty Alexander
12/06/20 v2	Quarantine timeframes updated	Rusty Alexander
05/04/21 v3	Language updated around vaccinated youth and protocols upon a youth's return	

Reference Type (Accreditation, regulation, etc...)	Number, Section, ...