

The Rhode Island Education Operations

Back-to-School Bulletin

December 2020

UPDATE: CONTACT TRACING IDENTITY THEFT ADVISORY The Rhode Island Education Operations Center has received reports of an alleged RI Dept. of Health (RIDOH) contact tracer soliciting the Social Security Number of a COVID-positive student. The student's information was then used to fraudulently open a credit card account. Besides your date of birth, RIDOH will never require you provide any other personal identifying information that could cause fraud or deception. As the holidays draw near, please stay vigilant to ensure your personal information remains safe For RIDOH's scammer response guide-lines, [click here](#). Advise students, parents, teachers, and staff to take the following steps if they believe they have encountered a contact tracing scammer: 1. If contacted by a Dept. of Health contact tracer who requests more than your date of birth, you should attempt to verify their credentials, including their call-back number and that of their supervisor. 2. If you are unable to verify the contact tracer's credentials, immediately hang up the phone and submit a complaint through the Federal Trade Commission at ftc.gov/complaint or reportfraud.ftc.gov. Again, never disclose Social Security Numbers, credit card numbers, or other financial information over the phone with an alleged contact tracer and do not click or download links received via text or email from an alleged contact tracer. It may contain malware. For more information on how contact tracing scammers operate and what to do, [click here](#).

If you have any additional questions, please contact EDOC@ride.ri.gov or call 401-277-1440.

Sincerely,

Education Operations Center