

Revised September 1, 2022

K-12 Schools, Preschool/Childcare Guidance When a Student, Teacher, or Staff Member is Symptomatic, a Close Contact, or Diagnosed with COVID-19

Quarantine guidance in schools is currently based on the GroupTracing Model

Situation	Immediate Action	Follow Up
<p>COVID-19 Symptoms But Not a Close Contact</p> <p>(e.g., fever, cough, runny nose, loss of taste or smell, difficulty breathing)</p> <p>Symptom screening per CDC</p>	<p>Send home^E and advise contact with primary care provider for recommendations regarding need for testing. If not available through their primary care provider, testing is available through CCHS.</p> <p>If negative COVID-19 test result (PCR or antigen, alone is preferred) or COVID-19 ruled out by primary care provider (something else other than COVID-19 infection is reason for symptoms), can return 24 hours after fever resolves and symptoms have improved.</p> <p>If not tested and does not see primary care provider to identify cause of symptoms, can return to school 10 days after symptom onset.</p> <p>If symptomatic and a known contact to a positive case, refer to the “Contact to COVID19 – Symptomatic” instructions below.</p>	<p>School/classroom remains open.</p> <p>Notification of cohort in this scenario is at the discretion of each institution and not required by CDPH or CCHS.</p> <p>No notification of CCHS is required.</p> <p>CDPH Acceptable Proof of Negative Test Result</p>
<p>Close Contact** to COVID-19 and Symptomatic</p>	<p>Symptomatic students, teachers, and staff must quarantine at home, regardless of their vaccination status (even if fully vaccinated), masking, or recent COVID infection history. Testing* is highly recommended and if completed and returns positive, refer to actions and follow up for “Positive COVID-19.”</p>	<p>No notification of CCHS is required unless positive test result in a close contact.</p>



<p>Exposure to COVID-19 Outside of School</p>	<p>Household or any other close contact outside of the K-12 or Preschool/Childcare setting can now be treated the same as any other exposure location:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exposed students, regardless of vaccination status, can partake in all school activities, unless symptoms develop or student tests positive for COVID-19. Exposed students should be tested (via Antigen or PCR), 3-5 days after last exposure, unless they had COVID within the last 90 days. If exposure involves multiple positive household members, timing begins from the date of the first household member to test positive. If under 2, monitor for symptoms and test if symptoms develop. (At home tests not approved for children under 2). If student has symptoms they should stay home, get tested and follow the guidance above for “Close Contact to COVID-19 and symptomatic” If student tests positive, follow section below for “Positive COVID-19 PCR or Antigen Test Result” 	
<p>Negative COVID-19 PCR or Antigen Test Result</p>	<p>If no symptoms and not a contact to a COVID-19 positive individual, may return to school. At-home test results do not need to be confirmed by PCR test.</p> <p>If symptoms present, may return to school after 24 hours if symptom improvement and no fever (without the use of fever-reducing medication).</p>	<p>Remain open.</p> <p>Notification of cohort in this scenario is at the discretion of each institution and not required by CDPH or CCHS.</p> <p>No notification of CCHS required.</p>

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Positive COVID-19 PCR or Antigen Test Result

Must [isolate at home](#), regardless of vaccination status (even if fully vaccinated). The timeline for return is:

- With symptoms: May return after 5 days have passed since symptom start date IF symptoms are improving and there is no fever for 24 hours (without fever-reducing medication) AND a negative test is completed (antigen recommended), on or after day 5.
- For children under 2: May return to school after day 5 without testing, IF symptoms are improving and no fever for 24 hours (without fever-reducing medication)
- Without symptoms: May return after 5 days have passed since the date of positive COVID-19 test and negative test is completed on or after day 5 (antigen recommended).

If unable to test on day 5 or after, or if repeat test on day 5 remains positive, case must stay isolated until a negative test is obtained or 10 days of isolation have passed. No additional isolation or testing required after day 10.

Next Steps:

1. Identify exposed group and proceed with notification of exposed group.
2. Recommend [testing*](#) of contacts to identify additional cases.

CCHS Notification:

1. Notify CCHS using the [SPOT Intake Form](#)
2. A CCHS Schools Case Investigator will follow up with school liaison to coordinate next steps.

[CDPH Antigen Testing Guidance](#)

Employee notification requirements can be found in Section 4 of [CA AB685](#). Please refer to the [Cal/OSHA COVID FAQ](#) for a school's legal obligations as an employer

[Disinfection Instructions:](#)

If notified of a positive COVID-19 case within previous 24 hours – clean and disinfect spaces where case occupied

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	<p style="text-align: center;">Exposure Notification (Group Tracing Model)</p>	
<p>Identify GROUPS who shared the same indoor airspace for at least 15 mins within 24 hours of someone with COVID-19**</p>	<p>All Students, Regardless of Vaccination Status without any symptoms, identified as a contact in a supervised school setting, do not need to quarantine at home. As long as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Remains Symptom free 2. Strongly recommend testing on day 3-5 after exposure* 3. Strongly recommend wearing a well fitting mask for ten days after last exposure for those 2 years and older. 4. Should symptom monitor to Day 10 after the last known close contact with the positive case. If symptoms begin, isolate at home (follow general isolation and testing guidance). <p>CDPH strongly encourages shifting to a Group Tracing Approach. Group-Tracing Approach to Students Exposed to COVID-19 in a K-12 setting</p> <p>CDPH has retired Standard Quarantine & Modified Quarantine as of April 6th, 2022. See the link below for their General Considerations on this decision.</p> <p>K-12 Updated Guidance & General Considerations Childcare Guidance</p> <p>Comparison summary of old vs new models; Contact Tracing Comparison Summary</p>	<p>School/classroom remains open.</p> <p>General notification of broader Cohorts/classrooms is necessary.</p> <p>No notification of CCHS is required.</p>

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<p>Resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDPH School Guidance Document • CDPH Coronavirus Page • Contra Costa Coronavirus Schools Guidance Page • CCHS Quarantine and Isolation Instructions • Template Letters to Notify of Exposure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students 	<p>CCHS Contacts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCHS School SPOT Intake Form • CCHS Schools Team Email: covid.schools@cchealth.org • CCHS General Covid Information Hotline: (844) 729-8410
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£ When community transmission is below “high” (substantial, moderate, low) and individual only has a runny nose and they are NOT a close contact to someone who has COVID-19, then they do not need to isolate and test as long as they don’t have other symptoms or concerns. If students have only a runny nose and ARE a close contact they should isolate and test at any community transmission rates. In addition to this, students who have any other common symptom or multiple symptoms concerning for COVID-19, should still isolate and test no matter the community transmission rates. To determine case rate/community transmission schools can use CDC county tiers, which breaks down tiers into “high,” “substantial,” “moderate,” and “low” transmission, in their COVID tracker website: <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view> Additionally, schools can also view the CDC community transmission level on our county website <https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/>

*Fully-vaccinated: At least two weeks have passed since completion of a 1-dose or 2-dose COVID vaccine series.
Up -to-Date vaccinated: fully vaccinated and boosted, or fully vaccinated but not yet eligible for booster. No wait time after booster is administered, considered Up-to-Date same day.*

**Testing may occur at the school, a healthcare facility, home or other locations with either antigen or PCR testing. Antigen testing is preferred if history of previous infection within the past 90 days.*

*** Close contact is defined as someone sharing the same indoor airspace, e.g., home, classroom, car, airplane etc., for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (for example, three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes) during an infected person's infectious period.*

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