



COVID-19 in Schools

If a student, teacher, or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 or thinks they may have COVID-19, follow this guidance to keep the community safe.

WHAT TO DO

Anyone who thinks they may have COVID-19 should stay away from school

All students, teachers, and staff who think they may have COVID-19 should stay away from school even if they have been vaccinated for COVID-19. Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, chills, new cough, shortness of breath, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, and loss of taste or smell. Sick persons are advised to get a COVID-19 test and stay away from school while awaiting test results to prevent unknowingly exposing others.

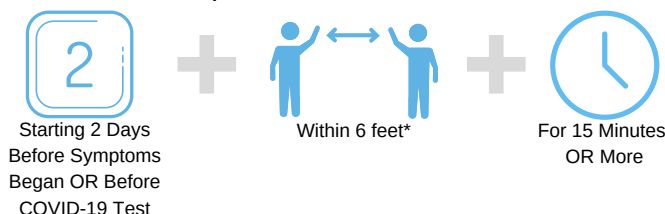
Anyone with a positive COVID-19 test should self-isolate for at least 5 days even if they are vaccinated

Anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 should notify the school immediately and self-isolate (stay away from school and others) for at least 5 full days starting from either the first day of the start of symptoms, or the day of testing if the person does not have symptoms. To calculate the isolation period, day 1 is the day after symptoms start/day of test. Isolation can end after day 5 if symptoms are fully resolved and if the individual can wear a well-fitting mask for 10 full days. If unable to wear a mask consistently and properly or if symptoms continue, the individual should self-isolate for 10 full days. If the positive test is from an "at home" test kit that is not monitored by a trained health official, then the test might not be reported to the health department; the individual should follow the same self-isolation instructions.

WHO SHOULD QUARANTINE

In school settings without universal use of masks: The school should identify individuals who have been in close contact to the person who tested positive for COVID-19 and who need to quarantine. This is critical to slowing the spread of COVID-19.

In school settings with universal use of masks required: No contact tracing is needed for at-school exposures. Individuals meeting the below criteria who are exposed to COVID-19 outside of school (e.g., household exposure) should quarantine.



- Individuals who are not up-to-date** with COVID-19 vaccination and who do not have a documented (positive PCR or antigen test) COVID-19 infection in the prior 3 months should quarantine for:
 - 10 full days if they have **NO symptoms**; or
 - 5 days if they have **NO symptoms** and **test negative (PCR or antigen) on or after day 5 of quarantine** and **can wear a well-fitting mask for 5 additional days**.

Individuals may be able to participate in modified quarantine through a "Test to Stay" program.

Learn more about [KDPH Guidance](#) for schools.

- Individuals who are up-to-date** with COVID-19 vaccination do not need to quarantine if they are asymptomatic but are recommended to get a COVID-19 test 5-7 days after their exposure and wear a mask indoors for 10 days.

*In the K-12 indoor setting, students who are ≥ 3 feet away from an infected student do not need to quarantine if both students were consistently wearing masks. This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, other adults, or exposures outside of the classroom.

**Up-to-date includes children 5-17 years old who have completed their primary vaccine series ≥ 14 days prior to the exposure and adults ≥ 18 years old who have completed their primary mRNA (Pfizer/Moderna) vaccine series ≥ 5 months prior, their J&J/Janssen vaccine ≥ 2 months prior, or have received their booster.

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