#### Aug 29, 2023

# COVID-19 Decision Trees for K-12 Schools

The COVID-19 public health emergency declaration has ended, and the related Local Health Officer Orders have been rescinded. These are the current recommendations for students per CDPH guidance and requirements for K-12 workers per Cal/OSHA for COVID-19 management in schools. Reporting of outbreaks of students or staff or a combination of (3 cases linked within a 7-day period) is still required.

Today's updates: A subhead was added with reminders around recommendations and requirements, and the time period within which an outbreak is defined was changed from 14 to 7. Guidance encouraging schools to develop their own infectious disease policies was also removed.

## If the person...

- Has symptoms, use the Symptom and Isolation Tree
- Has tested positive and does not have symptoms, use the Asymptomatic Positive Tree
- . Is identified as a close contact and does not have symptoms, use the Close Contact and Quarantine Trees

# Symptom and Isolation Tree for Students and K-12 Workers

A person (vaccinated Is there Isolate the person, and Stay/ a documented or unvaccinated) has return to strongly recommend pre-existing condition the person mask and school one or more symptoms that accounts for the test pending a final or work associated with NO symptoms? determination. COVID-19 Possible symptoms include fever, chills, cough, shortness of Is there breath or difficulty NO a verified medical **Result of COVID-19** breathing, fatigue, muscle diagnosis of another illness test after onset of that accounts for the or body aches, headache, symptoms? symptoms? **NEGATIVE** new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion YES **POSITIVE** or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and/or diarrhea. For return as early as Day 6, it is recommended that the Stay home until Stay home until symptoms person must meet all of the following criteria: symptoms have have improved, 24 hours improved, 24 hours have passed without fever, Must feel well have passed without and no use of fever-· Symptoms must be improving. fever, and no use reducing medications. · The individual has been free of fever without the use of of fever-reducing fever-reducing medications for at least 24 hours. If close contact, follow medications. the Close Contact and If close contact, Students should wear a mask on Days 6 – 10. Students may



Quarantine Tree.

If symptoms persist, consider

retesting in 1 - 2 days.







remove their mask sooner than Day 10 with two sequential

Per Cal/OSHA K-12 Workers must wear a mask on Days 6 – 10.

negative tests one day apart.





follow the Close

**Contact and** 

Quarantine Tree.

# Asymptomatic Positive Tree for Students and K-12 Workers

A person (vaccinated or unvaccinated) has tested positive for COVID-19 using any antigen test type and does not have symptoms

**Confirmation testing** is not recommended

Isolate at home for 5 days from the date on which the first sample was collected.

- · Return on or after day 6
- If symptoms develop, follow the Symptom and Isolation Tree. The isolation clock resets to day 0 on the symptom onset date.
- Students should wear a mask on Days 6 10. Students may remove their mask sooner than Day 10 with two sequential negative tests one day apart.

Per Cal/OSHA, K-12 Workers must wear a mask on Days 6-10.

YES

## Close Contact Tree for Students and K-12 Workers

Did the person share a common indoor airspace with a person who was contagious with COVID-19 for 15 minutes or more in a 24-hour period (spaces <400,000 CF) OR was within 6 feet of the infected person (spaces >400,000 CF) for 15 minutes or more in a 24-hour period?

NOTE: Based on the CDPH's current definition for close contact, updated 11/9/22.

Does the person live with a household member who has COVID-19?

NO

Asymptomatic close contacts may continue in-person work/ school. Testing is recommended (even if fully vaccinated) 3 - 5 days after the household member ends isolation. Testing as soon as it is known that a household member is positive is also recommended.

YES

K-12 workers and students are expected to report positive test results.

exposure occur at school/work?

Did the

Asymptomatic close contacts may continue in-person work/school. Testing is recommended (even if fully vaccinated) 3 – 5 days after last exposure.

NO

K-12 workers and students are expected to report positive test results.

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#### **FOR K-12 WORKERS:**

- · Follow notification requirements for close contact in the Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention nonemergency Regulations. See Table 2 of this FAQ for a list of notification requirements.
- Testing is recommended for employee close contacts on day 3, 4, or 5 after last exposure. If there is an outbreak, K-12 workers MUST test on Day 3, 4, or 5 and report results or they will be excluded from work.

#### FOR STUDENTS:

 Consider providing general notification to the school community when many in the school community may currently have COVID-19. Always report outbreaks to public health.

#### Students and K-12 Workers:

- · Close contacts should consider testing as soon as possible to determine infection status. Testing is recommended (even if fully vaccinated) 3 – 5 days after last exposure.
- · People who are within 30 days of a prior COVID-19 infection do not need to test.
- · Schools are not required to verify negative test results.
- · If the exposed person has symptoms consistent with COVID-19, recommend they stay home, get tested, and follow the guidance in the Symptom and Isolation tree on page 1.
- · Students and K-12 Workers who test positive must stay home and notify the school/employer of the positive test.
- · Close contacts should wear a well-fitting mask indoors around others for at least 10 days following the date of last exposure to a person who was contagious.
- · If there is an outbreak, K-12 workers in the exposed group MUST wear a mask until the workplace no longer qualifies as an outbreak.

# **Test Types By Situation**

| Situation   | Appropriate Test Types   |
|---|--|
| Person with symptoms<br>(For initial testing in<br>response to symptoms.) | <ul> <li>Antigen is preferred because it returns a quick result</li> <li>PCR or other NAAT are acceptable.</li> </ul>  |
| Close Contacts  | <ul> <li>Antigen is preferred because it returns a quick result</li> <li>PCR or other NAAT are acceptable.</li> </ul>  |
|   | <ul> <li>Per <u>CDPH Guidance for Local Health Jurisdictions on Isolation and Quarantine of the General Public</u> "Close contacts should consider testing as soon as possible to determine infection status and follow all isolation recommendations above if testing positive. Knowing one is infected early enables (a) earlier access to treatment options, if indicated (especially for those who may be at risk for severe illness), and (b) notification of exposed persons (close contacts) who may also benefit by knowing if they are infected. If testing negative before Day 3, retest at least a day later at least once, during the 3–5 day window following exposure."</li> </ul> |
| Required screenings   | <ul> <li>Antigen is preferred because it returns a quick result</li> <li>PCR or other NAAT are acceptable.</li> </ul>  |
|   |  |

## **At-Home Testing**

**STUDENTS:** Schools may accept the results of at-home testing for the same uses for which antigen tests are approved. Schools are encouraged to use a means described in the <a href="Over-The-Counter Tests Guidance">Over-The-Counter Tests Guidance</a> to verify the results on tests administered at home, if necessary. See the "What are best practices for verification of self-test results?" section for specific recommendations.

**EMPLOYEES:** If testing is required, per Cal/OSHA, "an over-the-counter (OTC) COVID-19 test may be both self-administered and self-read if verification of the results, such as a time and date stamped photograph of the result or an OTC test that uses digital reporting with time and date stamped results, is provided." This guidance can be found in Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Non-Emergency Regulations FAQ-Testing.

### **Public Health Notification Requirements**

As of March 1, 2023, schools will no longer be expected to report individual COVID-19 cases to the County Public Health Department. Reporting of outbreaks to PHS will continue as required under California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 17, §2500 and §2508.

Based on Cal/OSHA mandates, employers must report all major outbreaks at any worksite to CAL/OSHA. (<u>Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Non-Emergency Regulations FAQ - Outbreaks</u>)











