COVID-19 Decision Trees for K-12 Schools

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 or unvaccinated) has one or more symptoms associated with COVID-19

Possible symptoms include fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and/or diarrhea.

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**Isolate the person pending a final determination as required below**

- **Is there a documented pre-existing condition that accounts for the symptoms?**
  - YES
  - NO

- **Was the person identified as a close contact or as part of an exposed group within the last 10 days?**
  - YES
  - NO

- **Result of COVID-19 test after onset of symptoms?**
  - NEGATIVE or not done
  - POSITIVE

- **Negative test result from a test administered on Day 5 or later?**
  - YES
  - NO

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**Stay home until symptoms have improved according to existing school policy, typically 24 hours without fever and no use of fever-reducing medicine.**

1. Stay home until symptoms have improved according to existing school policy, typically 24 hours without fever and no use of fever-reducing medicine.
2. Then use the Close Contact and Quarantine Tree to determine when return to work or school is permitted.

**For return as early as Day 6 the person must meet all of the following criteria:**
- Have negative test result on or after day 5.
- Symptoms must be improving
- The person has been free of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications for at least 24 hours.
- On Days 6 – 10, wearing a mask that fits snugly over the mouth and nose while indoors is recommended.
- Per Cal/OSHA’s ETS
  - Employees must provide evidence of a verified negative result to their employer
  - Employees MUST also wear a mask on Days 6 – 10.

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**Return on or after Day 11 from onset of symptoms if symptoms have improved, and free of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications for 24 hours.**

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Today’s updates: CDPH updated the definition of close contact and in the Close Contact Tree for Students and K-12 Workers, the number of days an individual with a prior COVID-19 infection does not need to test changed to 30.
Asymptomatic Positive Tree for Students and K-12 Workers

A person (vaccinated or unvaccinated) has tested positive for COVID-19 using any 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 with a diagnostic sample collected on or after day 5 that is negative. For staff, evidence of a negative test must be provided.
• On Days 6 – 10, students should wear a mask that fits snugly over the mouth and nose while indoors and when around others outside. Per Cal/OSHA’s ETS, employees must wear a mask on days 6 - 10.
• If unable or unwilling to test, return on Day 11.
• If symptoms develop, isolate immediately and follow the Symptom and Isolation Tree.

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?

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

YES

To continue in-person work/school, asymptomatic close contacts (even if fully vaccinated) are expected to test on Day 3, 4, or 5, after the COVID-positive household member completes their isolation period.

• K-12 workers must provide evidence of testing.
• Students are expected to test and report positive test results.
• Testing as soon as it is known that a household member is positive is also recommended.

NO

Did the exposure occur at school/work?

YES

To remain in school/work the person (even if fully vaccinated) is expected to test on Day 3, 4, or 5.

• K-12 workers must provide evidence of a negative test taken on Day 3, 4 or 5 to continue in-person work.
• Students are expected to test and report positive test results.

NO

All close contacts (even if fully vaccinated) should test on Day 3, 4, or 5.

FOR EMPLOYEES:

• Follow notification requirements for close contact in the Cal/OSHA emergency temporary standards. See Table 2 of this FAQ for a list of notification requirements.
• Employers must verify negative test results to allow asymptomatic employees to continue in-person work.

FOR STUDENTS:

• Use of this sample notification letter is recommended, but not required. During periods of high transmission school-wide notification is also recommended as an alternative to overlapping group notifications.
• Students are expected to test and report positive test results.

NO

Students and K-12 Workers:

• People who are within 30 days of a prior COVID-19 infection do not need to test.
• If the exposed person has symptoms consistent with COVID-19, they must stay home, should get tested, and must follow the guidance in the Symptom and isolation tree on page 1.
• Students and employees who test positive must stay home and notify the school/employer of the positive test.

To continue to participate in school and extracurricular activities, student close contacts should test negative on Day 3, 4, or 5 following their last exposure.

• Schools are not required to verify negative test results.
• Parents are expected to test their children as required by the public health order and notify the school of positive test results.
• It is strongly recommended that exposed students wear a well-fitting mask indoors around others for at least 10 days following the date of last exposure.

Employees must 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.
Test Types By Situation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Situation</th>
<th>Appropriate Test Types</th>
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| Person with symptoms (For initial testing in response to symptoms.)      | • A single negative antigen result in response to an onset of symptoms is acceptable to allow return to school/work when symptoms are improving and the person has been fever-free without the use of fever-reducing medications for 24 hours. For greater certainty, it is recommended (not required) that a person in this circumstance remain in isolation pending the outcome of a confirmatory test administered at least 12 hours after the first test. Antigen tests are also acceptable for this purpose. If both tests are negative, the person may end isolation when their symptoms are improving, and they have been free of fever for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications.  
  ● PCR or other NAAT                                                                                                                  |
| Return from isolation before Day 11                                       | • Antigen testing is recommended for people whose symptoms are resolving to determine if they can return to school or work on Day 6 - 10. Antigen tests are less likely to detect virus beyond a person's contagious period.  
  ● PCR or other NAAT are acceptable.                                                                                               |
| Required screenings                                                      | • Antigen is preferred because it returns a quick result.  
  ● PCR or other NAAT                                                                                                               |

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 Over-The-Counter Tests Guidance to verify the results on tests administered at home. See the “What are best practices for verification of self-test results?” section for specific recommendations.

**EMPLOYEES:** 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’s FAQs under Testing.

**STUDENTS and EMPLOYEES:** When used for a person who has symptoms, the County of San Diego recommends that a negative antigen test be confirmed by a follow-up test (antigen, PCR or other NAAT) administered the following day, and that the person isolate pending the result of that test.

Public Health Notification Requirements

Per CCR Title 17, Section 2508 (referenced in CDPH school guidance), “It shall be the duty of anyone in charge of a public or private school, kindergarten, boarding school, or day nursery to report at once to the local health officer the presence or suspected presence of any of the communicable diseases.” CCR Section 2500 (also referenced in school guidance) includes COVID-19 in the list that must be reported. County public health services (PHS) has informed SDCOE that schools/employers are required to report to PHS, information on all positive cases that were on a school campus while infectious, including OTC results reported by parents and employees.