



Updated COVID Safety Guidelines – August 8, 2022

A response to positive COVID cases is required by the Colorado Department of Public Health. There has been an increase in the last several weeks, likely related to the BA.5 variant. As the district has done during the course of the pandemic, the district will utilize internal data from testing, case tracking and nurse input to adjust guidance if necessary. Below are the current expectations regarding exclusion and follow the most current CDC and EPCPH guidance. Additionally, the district is required to report each positive case to El Paso County Public Health.

POSITIVE INDIVIDUAL (all vaccination status) ISOLATION REQUIRED:

- Any individual who tests positive for COVID through a rapid or PCR test must isolate for a minimum of 5 days.
- If the individual has no symptoms on day five, they can return to work/school the following day with a mask through day 10.
- If the individual continues to have symptoms on day 5, they should isolate through day 10 after symptom onset and until they are symptom free. ***A school nurse may adjust the timeline between day 6 - 10 for staff depending on individual situations.***

EXPOSED INDIVIDUAL (all vaccination status and locations):

- May return to work or school if no symptoms are present.
- Any individual with a known exposure: If symptoms develop within 4 - 14 days of last exposure testing is encouraged
 - If test is positive, follow positive guidelines from above.
 - If test is negative or if testing is refused:
 - individual will remain isolated for 5 days and may return to school on day 6 if symptoms are resolved, wearing a mask until day 10; **or**
 - individual must be diagnosed by a health professional with another illness and follow exclusion guidelines for that illness.
- **Home exposure**
 - Wear mask for 10 days from the day of last exposure
 - Last exposure is either: the day **positive** individual is fully isolated from student/staff member **or** day 5 if positive individual is asymptomatic **or** day 10 if positive individual has continuing symptoms

Elementary School Classroom Exposure – Additional Information

Because students are in closer proximity for the entire day, there are options for each situation. The school nurse and administrator should work together to determine response.

- No exclusion of class is required for 1 – 4 cases in same class exposure.
- Rapid testing will be available and encouraged from days 4 – 10.
- If a class has 5 or more cases within 2 school weeks, the entire class will be excluded from school for at least 7 days to monitor additional symptomatic individuals and for deep cleaning.
- Remote learning will take place if an entire class is excluded.

Additional Information:

- For any isolation or exclusion, the days required will be from symptom start date or test date at the discretion of the school nurse.
- Rapid tests can be accepted from a physician's office or urgent care with printed results or administered at school in the presence of a school nurse or other designee. A school nurse may accept an at-home rapid test at their discretion.
- All positive cases (Rapid or PCR) must be reported to El Paso County Public Health.
- Secondary center-based classrooms should function similarly to elementary.