

Protocols for School Students in K-12 School Settings

Riverside University Health System – Public Health

Riverside University Health System – Public Health (RUHS-PH) protocol aligns with California Department of Public Health (CDPH) School Guidance and CDPH Isolation and Quarantine Guidance. For more information on K-12 School Guidance, please refer to [K–12 Guidance 2022–23 School Year \(ca.gov\)](#).

MASKING:

CDPH strongly recommends that all persons (e.g., students and staff) wear masks in K-12 indoor settings, with consideration of exemptions per [Guidance for Face Coverings \(ca.gov\)](#).

- Schools/districts should consider policies that support students who choose to wear a mask, promote awareness, and support campaigns to prevent any possible bullying from masking choice.
- Schools/districts should consider policies for medically fragile staff and students, and the health services offices where students are served day to day.

Please see the CDPH Get the Most Out of Masking for more information: [Get the Most Out of Masking \(ca.gov\)](#)



TESTING:

CDPH has funded school testing programs and subject matter experts available to support school decision making, including free testing resources to support screening testing programs (software, test kits, shipping, testing, etc.).

- Resources for schools interested in testing include: California's Testing Task Force [K-12 Schools Testing Program](#), [K-12 school-based COVID-19 testing strategies](#) and [Updated Testing Guidance](#); The Safe Schools for [All state technical assistance \(TA\)](#) portal; and the [Operational Guidance for K-12 Schools and Early Care and Education Programs to Support Safe In-Person Learning | CDC](#) which is specific to K-12 schools and early care and education programs.

CASE REPORTING, CONTACT TRACING AND INVESTIGATION:

- Riverside County will continue with the requirement for individual case reporting to ensure continued compliance with Title 17. K-12 schools should refer to California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 17, [2500](#) and [2508](#) for reporting requirements.
*Note that 17 CCR §2500 has been temporarily modified by the [State Public Health Officer Order of February 10th, 2022](#). This order applies to health care providers and laboratories only.
- Schools are encouraged to have a COVID-19 liaison to assist RUHS-PH with activities related to COVID-19.

- CDPH recommends all asymptomatic persons who are exposed to someone with COVID-19 to test within 3-5 days after last exposure.

POSITIVE COVID-19 TEST

Please note: While testing is not required to end isolation, it remains strongly recommended to test before ending isolation.

Confirmed COVID-19 Test symptomatic – with or without a known exposure:

- Positive individual to remain in home isolation for at least 5 days from symptom onset.
- Isolation can end after Day 5 if symptom(s) are not present or are resolving and fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication.
- If fever is present, isolation should be continued until fever resolves.
- If isolation is discontinued after Day 5, it is strongly recommended that students continue to wear a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 10 days, especially in indoor settings.
- If symptom(s), other than fever, are not resolving continue to isolate until symptom(s) are resolving or until after Day 10.

Confirmed COVID-19 Test asymptomatic or the onset of symptoms is unknown:

- Positive individual to remain in home isolation for at least 5 days from positive test date.
- Isolation can end after Day 5 if symptom(s) are not present or are resolving and fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication.
- If isolation is discontinued after Day 5, it is strongly recommended that students continue to wear a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 10 days, especially in indoor settings.
- If student develops symptom(s) during isolation, student must remain in isolation until after Day 10.

NO KNOWN EXPOSURE - SYMPTOMATIC

Send home, instruct to isolate, recommend immediate testing and if negative continue to isolate and retest in 1-2 days.

If unable to test or choosing not to test, quarantine can end after Day 5 from symptom onset if student's symptom(s) improve AND is afebrile for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications.

- While symptomatic student COVID-19 test is pending, they must continue to isolate.
- **If symptomatic student test is positive:** student must continue isolation and follow protocol for **POSITIVE COVID-19 TEST** section in this document.
- **If student test is negative but still continues to be symptomatic with symptom(s) not resolving:** Student should continue to be excluded from school and test on Day 5 or later from symptom(s) onset. Student may be released from quarantine and return to school if: symptom(s) are resolving AND is afebrile for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications; OR a healthcare provider has provided documentation that the symptom(s) are typical of their underlying chronic condition; OR a healthcare provider has confirmed an alternative diagnosis; OR at least 5 days have passed since symptom(s) onset.
- Students who test negative and symptom(s) are no longer present or are resolving and is afebrile for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication can end isolation after Day 5.

DEFINITIONS

Positive Case: a person who has tested positive for COVID-19.

Close Contact: In indoor spaces 400,000 or fewer cubic feet per floor (such as classroom, gymnasium etc.), a close contact is defined as sharing the same indoor airspace for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (for example, three separate 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes) during an infected person's infectious period.

In large indoor spaces greater than 400,000 cubic feet per floor (such as open-floor-plan offices), a close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of the infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period during the infected person's infectious period.

Exposed: an individual that has had close contact with a Positive Case.

Asymptomatic: means there are no symptoms.

Symptomatic: means showing symptoms, or it may concern a specific symptom.

Isolation: If you have tested POSITIVE for COVID-19, you will need to self-isolate. This means that you will need to stay in a separate room, with no personal contact with others for 10 days.

Vaccinated: A student is considered fully vaccinated if at least 14 days have passed since the second dose in a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine series is completed.

Unvaccinated: A student is considered unvaccinated if the student has not yet received the second dose in a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine series.

Booster: For more information about booster eligibility please visit: [COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shots | CDC](#)

Acceptable Testing for Schools: includes Antigen diagnostic tests, PCR diagnostic tests, and pooled PCR tests.

* Antigen Test Preferred but not required

**If pooled PCR testing is being used, additional testing procedures must be in place to provide subsequent testing should a positive result be detected. Please reference CDPH's School Testing [Resources](#) and [Considerations](#) for more information on pooled testing.

MORE INFORMATION

- State of California Safe Schools for All Hub: [CA Covid-19 School Readiness Hub](#)
- CDPH school testing resources information: [School Testing | California Coronavirus Testing Task Force](#)
- Isolation and Quarantine of the General Public [Guidance on Isolation and Quarantine for COVID-19 \(ca.gov\)](#)
- CDPH Masking Communications Toolkit: [Masking and COVID-19 \(ca.gov\)](#)
- CDPH SMARTER Plan: [California SMARTER](#)