

Protocols for School Staff in K-12 School Settings

Riverside University Health System – Public Health

This protocol aligns with CDPH School Guidance, CDPH Isolation and Quarantine Guidance and Cal/OSHA’s COVID-19 Prevention Non-Emergency Regulations. Please refer to the following, [Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Resources](#).

[K-12-Guidance-2022-23-School-Year](#). For more information on isolation and quarantine, please refer to the following CDPH guidance, [Guidance on Isolation and Quarantine for COVID-19 \(ca.gov\)](#) For more information about Cal/OSHA’s COVID-19 Prevention Non-Emergency Regulations, please refer to the following guidance. [COVID-19 Prevention Non-Emergency Regulations \(ca.gov\)](#)

POSITIVE COVID-19 TEST

***Please note:** While testing is no longer required to end isolation, it remains strongly recommended to test before ending isolation.

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

- Positive staff member to remain in home isolation for at least 5 days from symptom onset.
- Isolation can end after Day 5 if symptoms are not present or are resolving and fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication. Staff are required to wear a well-fitting mask when sharing indoor airspace for a total of 10 days.
- If symptoms, other than fever, are not resolving continue to isolate until symptoms are resolving or until after Day 10.

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

- Positive staff member to remain in home isolation for at least 5 days from positive test date.
- Isolation can end after Day 5 if symptoms are not present or are resolving.
- If staff develop symptoms during isolation, refer to Confirmed COVID-19 Test Symptomatic section.

**Antigen Test Preferred

SYMPTOMATIC

Send home, instruct to isolate for at least 5 days, test immediately, and if negative continue to isolate and retest in 1-2 days.

Notify School Health Office immediately and share test results.

- While staff COVID-19 test is pending, they must continue home isolation.
- **If staff test is positive:** staff must continue isolation and follow protocol for **POSITIVE COVID-19 TEST** section in this document.
- **If staff does not have a known exposure, test is negative, and symptoms are resolving or resolved:** Staff may return to work and should consider masking for 10 days from symptom onset.
- **If staff has a known exposure, test is negative, and symptoms are resolving or resolved:** Staff may return to work and must mask for 10 days from symptom onset.
- **If staff refuse or are unable to test,** staff must remain in home isolation through Day 5 and can return on Day 6 if 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and symptoms are not present or are resolving. Staff should consider masking for 10 days from symptom onset.

EXPOSED- ASYMPTOMATIC

Should consider testing 3 - 5 days after last exposure.

Notify School Health Office immediately and share test results.

- **If staff test is positive:** staff must continue isolation and follow protocol for **POSITIVE COVID-19 TEST** section in this document.
- Staff are required to wear a well-fitting mask when sharing indoor airspace for 10 days. *Masking requirements are per Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Non-Emergency Regulations, link is above.
- If symptoms develop, recommend testing and refer to SYMPTOMATIC section above.
Please Note: Persons infected within the prior 30 days do not need to be tested, quarantined, or excluded from work unless symptoms develop.

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 or have COVID-19 symptoms, you should self-isolate. Isolation means to separate those infected with a contagious disease from people who are not infected.

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

* Antigen Test Preferred

**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](#)

