

# Protocols for School Staff in K-12 School Settings

Riverside University Health System – Public Health

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

[K-12 Guidance 2023-24 School Year \(ca.gov\)](#). For more information on isolation guidance, please refer to the following CDPH guidance, [COVID-19 Isolation Guidance \(ca.gov\)](#). 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 \(ca.gov\)](#).

Additional restrictions may apply during an outbreak or during an increase of local cases.

**Please Note: Schools may choose to be more restrictive than the County and the State.**

## POSITIVE COVID-19 TEST – SYMPTOMATIC

- Positive staff member should remain in isolation until you have not had a fever for 24 hours without using fever reducing medication AND other [COVID-19 symptoms](#) are mild and improving. Staff member should consider isolating for additional days in order to reduce risk of exposures, in line with the potential infectious period.
- Staff are required to wear a well-fitting mask when sharing indoor airspace for a total of 10 days.
  - Staff can remove their mask before Day 10 with two sequential negative COVID-19 tests taken a day apart. For more information, please refer to [Isolation Q&A \(ca.gov\)](#).
- Staff should avoid contact with people at [higher-risk](#) for severe COVID-19 for 10 days.
- If you have symptoms, particularly if you are at [higher risk for severe COVID-19](#), speak with a healthcare provider as soon as you test positive about [treatment options](#).

## POSITIVE COVID-19 TEST - ASYMPTOMATIC

**Asymptomatic persons who test positive for COVID-19 can still spread disease to others. See potential infectious period.**

- Isolation is not required for asymptomatic COVID-19 positive cases; however, testing positive is a marker of contagiousness and should consider isolation in order to reduce risk of exposures, in line with the potential infectious period.
- Staff are required to wear a well-fitting mask when sharing indoor airspace for a total of 10 days.
  - Staff can remove their mask before Day 10 with two sequential negative COVID-19 tests taken a day apart. For more information, please refer to [COVID-19 Isolation Guidance \(ca.gov\)](#).
- Staff should avoid contact with people at [higher-risk](#) for severe COVID-19 for 10 days.

## EXPOSED

- If you have new COVID-19 symptoms, recommend testing and mask immediately.
- If you do not have symptoms and are at higher risk of severe COVID-19 infection and would benefit from [treatment](#), you should test within 5 days.
- If you do not have symptoms and have contact with people who are at higher risk for severe infection, you should mask indoors when around such people for 10 days. Consider testing within 5 days after the last exposure date (Day 0) and before contact with people at higher risk.

\*For further details on testing, see [CDPH COVID-19 testing guidance](#).

## DEFINITIONS

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

**Potential infectious period:** The potential infectious period is 2 days before the date of symptoms began or the positive test date (if no symptoms) through Day 10. (Day 0 is the symptom onset date or positive test date).

For more information please refer to: [Public Health Order Questions & Answers: COVID-19 Disease Control and Prevention \(ca.gov\)](#)

Some individuals who are immunocompromised may continue to be able to spread disease longer, for as long as 20 days or longer. For more information, please refer to [People Who Are Immunocompromised | CDC](#).

**Exclusion period:** Remain in isolation until you have not had a fever for 24 hours without using fever reducing medication AND other [COVID-19 symptoms](#) are mild and improving.

**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:** 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\* and PCR diagnostic tests.

\* Antigen Test Preferred

## MORE INFORMATION

- State of California Safe Schools For All Hub: [CA Covid-19 School Readiness Hub](#)
- CDPH school testing information: [Updated COVID-19 Testing Guidance \(ca.gov\)](#)
- Riverside County COVID-19 Treatment Options: [Covid-19 Treatment Options | Riverside University Health System \(ruhealth.org\)](#)