

Protocols for School Staff in K-12 School Settings

K-12 Guidance 2021-2022 School Year (ca.gov)

This protocol aligns with CDPH School Guidance, CDPH Isolation and Quarantine Guidance and Cal/OSHA's COVID-19 Prevention ETS. [K-12 Guidance 2021-22 School Year \(ca.gov\)](#) and [K-12 Schools Guidance 2021-2022 Questions & Answers \(ca.gov\)](#).

For more information on isolation and quarantine, please refer to the following CDPH guidance. [Guidance on Isolation and Quarantine for COVID-19 Contact Tracing \(ca.gov\)](#) For more information about Cal/OSHA's COVID-19 ETS, please refer to the following guidance. [COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standards Frequently Asked Questions \(ca.gov\)](#)

If staff were previously infected with (laboratory confirmed) COVID-19 within the last 90 days: (1) Staff are not required to undergo routine diagnostic screening testing. It's important to note that if staff become symptomatic within the 90-day period, diagnostic testing should be completed. (2) Staff may not need to quarantine; an individualized assessment should be completed.

POSITIVE COVID-19 TEST – REGARDLESS OF VACCINATION STATUS

Confirmed COVID-19 Test symptomatic:

- 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 a diagnostic specimen** is collected on day 5 or later and the test is negative, staff is required to wear a well-fitting mask when sharing indoor airspace for a total of 10 days.
- If fever is present, isolation should be continued until fever resolves.
- 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 AND a diagnostic specimen** is collected on day 5 or later and the test is negative.
- If isolation is discontinued after day 5, staff is required to wear a well-fitting mask when sharing indoor airspace for a total of 10 days, especially in indoor settings.
- If staff develop symptoms during isolation, refer to Confirmed COVID-19 Test Symptomatic section.

NOTE: If staff is unable to test or choose not to test, staff must remain in isolation until after Day 10 if fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and all other symptoms are resolving or resolved.

**Antigen Test Preferred

PERSONS WHO DISPLAY SYMPTOMS OF COVID -19 – REGARDLESS OF VACCINATION STATUS

Testing can be completed at the onset of symptoms but please note that subsequent testing may be required on day 5 or later. While test is pending continue home isolation.

Send home, instruct to isolate, and recommend testing 3 - 5 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 - REGARDLESS OF VACCINATION STATUS** 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 mask 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 10 and can return on day 11 if 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and symptoms are not present or are resolving.

EXPOSED- ASYMPTOMATIC – REGARDLESS OF VACCINATION STATUS

Require 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 - REGARDLESS OF VACCINATION STATUS** 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 ETS, link is above.
- If symptoms develop, send home, test, and refer to PERSONS WHO DISPLAY SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 section.
Please Note: Persons inflected within the prior 90 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: someone who shares the same indoor airspace (home, clinic waiting room, airplane, etc.) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour 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**. Diagnostic PCR tests are preferred, but not required.

* 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](#)
- Order of the State Public Health Officer Vaccine Verification for Workers in School – October 15th deadline: [Order of the State Public Health Officer Vaccine Verification for Workers in Schools](#)
- CDPH school testing resources information: [School Testing | California Coronavirus Testing Task Force](#)