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 Emergency Temporary Standards (Cal/OSHA’s COVID-19 ETS).


Note: Effective September 13, 2022, unvaccinated staff are no longer required to undergo surveillance testing. For more information, please refer to Order of the State Public Health Officer Vaccine Verification for Workers in Schools.

POSITIVE COVID-19 TEST

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 choosing 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

SYMPTOMATIC

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 for at least 5 days, and recommend testing 3 - 5 days after symptom onset.

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

Required 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, recommend testing and refer to **PERSONS WHO DISPLAY SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19** section.
  
  **Please Note:** Persons infected 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:** 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**. 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 – Effective September 17, 2022: [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](#)

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