

# 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).

[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 ETS, please refer to the following guidance. [COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standards Frequently Asked Questions \(ca.gov\)](#).

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](#)

