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 2023-24 School Year (ca.gov). 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.
  - 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 and Quarantine Q&A (ca.gov).
  - 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. Staff are required to wear a well-fitting mask when sharing indoor airspace for a total of 10 days.
- 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, and recommend testing immediately. 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* and PCR diagnostic tests.

* Antigen Test Preferred

## MORE INFORMATION

- State of California Safe Schools For All Hub: [CA Covid-19 School Readiness Hub](https://www.ca.gov)
- CDPH school testing information: [Frequently Asked Questions around K-12 Testing (ca.gov)](https://www.ca.gov)

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