

Protocols for School Students in K-12 School Settings

Riverside University Health System – Public Health

Riverside University Health System – Public Health (RUHS-PH) protocol aligns with California Department of Public Health (CDPH) School Guidance and CDPH Isolation and Quarantine Guidance. For more information on K-12 School Guidance, please refer to [K-12 Guidance 2023-24 School Year \(ca.gov\)](#).

MASKING:

CDPH strongly recommends that all persons (e.g., students and staff) wear masks in K-12 indoor settings, with consideration of exemptions per [When and Why to Wear a Mask \(ca.gov\)](#).

- Schools/districts should consider policies that support students who choose to wear a mask, promote awareness, and support campaigns to prevent any possible bullying from masking choice.
- Schools/districts should consider policies for medically fragile staff and students, and the health services offices where students are served day to day.



TESTING:

CDPH has funded school testing programs and subject matter experts available to support decision making, including free testing resources to support testing programs (software, test kits, shipping, testing, etc.).

- Resources for schools interested in testing include: California's Testing Task Force [School Testing for COVID-19 \(ca.gov\)](#). The Safe Schools for [All state technical assistance \(TA\)](#) portal; and the [Operational Guidance for K-12 Schools and Early Care and Education Programs to Support Safe In-Person Learning | CDC](#) which is specific to K-12 schools and early care and education programs.

CASE REPORTING, CONTACT TRACING AND INVESTIGATION:

- Riverside County will continue with the requirement for individual case reporting to ensure continued compliance with Title 17. K-12 schools should refer to California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 17, [§2500](#) and [§2508](#) for reporting requirements.
*Note that 17 CCR §2500 has been temporarily modified by the [Order of the State Public Health Officer: Revision of Mandatory Reporting of Covid-19 Results by Health Care Providers](#). This order applies to health care providers and laboratories only.
- Schools are encouraged to have a COVID-19 liaison to assist RUHS-PH with activities related to COVID-19.

POSITIVE COVID-19 TEST

Please note: While testing is not required to end isolation, it remains strongly recommended to test before ending isolation.

Confirmed COVID-19 Test symptomatic – with or without a known exposure:

- Positive individual to remain in home isolation for at least 5 days from symptom onset.
- Isolation can end after Day 5 if symptom(s) are not present or are resolving and fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication.
- If fever is present, isolation should be continued until fever resolves.
- If isolation is discontinued after Day 5, it is strongly recommended that students continue to wear a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 10 days, especially in indoor settings.
- If symptom(s), other than fever, are not resolving continue to isolate until symptom(s) are resolving or until after Day 10.

Confirmed COVID-19 Test asymptomatic or the onset of symptoms is unknown:

- Positive individual to remain in home isolation for at least 5 days from positive test date.
- Isolation can end after Day 5 if symptom(s) are not present or are resolving and fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication.
- If isolation is discontinued after Day 5, it is strongly recommended that students continue to wear a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 10 days, especially in indoor settings.
- If student develops symptom(s) during isolation, student must remain in isolation until after Day 10.

NO KNOWN EXPOSURE - SYMPTOMATIC

Send home, instruct to isolate, and recommend immediate testing.

If unable to test or choosing not to test, quarantine can end after Day 5 from symptom onset if student's symptom(s) improve AND is afebrile for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications.

- While symptomatic student COVID-19 test is pending, they must continue to isolate.
- **If symptomatic student test is positive:** student must continue isolation and follow protocol for **POSITIVE COVID-19 TEST** section in this document.
- **If student test is negative but still continues to be symptomatic with symptom(s) not resolving:** Student should continue to be excluded from school and test on Day 5 or later from symptom(s) onset. Student may be released from quarantine and return to school if: symptom(s) are resolving AND is afebrile for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications; OR a healthcare provider has provided documentation that the symptom(s) are typical of their underlying chronic condition; OR a healthcare provider has confirmed an alternative diagnosis; OR at least 5 days have passed since symptom(s) onset.
- **Students who test negative and symptom(s) are no longer present or are resolving** and are afebrile for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication can end isolation after Day 5.

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, you will need to self-isolate. This means that you will need to stay in a separate room, with no personal contact with others for 10 days.

Fully Vaccinated: A student is considered fully vaccinated if primary COVID-19 vaccine series is completed. Please refer to the COVID Vaccine timing guide: [IMM-1396_COVIDTimingChart-NewVaccinesv3_9-14-23 \(eziz.org\)](#)

Unvaccinated: A student is considered unvaccinated if the student has not yet completed their primary COVID-19 vaccine series.

Acceptable Testing for Schools: includes Antigen diagnostic tests and PCR diagnostic tests.

* Antigen Test Preferred but not required

MORE INFORMATION

- State of California Safe Schools for All Hub: [CA Covid-19 School Readiness Hub](#)
- Isolation and Quarantine of the General Public [Guidance on Isolation and Quarantine for COVID-19 \(ca.gov\)](#)
- CDPH Masking Communications Toolkit: [When and Why to Wear a Mask \(ca.gov\)](#)
- CDPH SMARTER Plan: [California SMARTER](#)
- Riverside County COVID-19 Treatment Options: [Covid-19 Treatment Options | Riverside University Health System \(ruhealth.org\)](#)