# COVID-19 Response Guidance for Schools

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## **Section A:** A person tests positive for COVID-19

#### Regardless of vaccination, previous infection, or lack of symptoms:

- Stay home for at least 5 days.
- Isolation can end after day 5 and person may return to school/work on day 6 if:
  - Symptoms are not present or are resolving; and
  - ▶ a test\* collected on day 5 or later is negative.
- ▶ If unable to test or choosing not to test, and no symptoms, isolation can end after day 10.
- ▶ If fever is present, isolation should be continued until fever resolves for at least 24 hours without use of fever-reducing medications.
- ▶ If symptoms, other than fever, are not resolving continue to isolate until symptoms are resolving or until after day 10.
- For staff, Cal/OSHA requires wearing a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 10 days, especially in indoor settings. For students, a well-fitting mask is strongly recommended.

\*Antigen test preferred. Home tests are now acceptable for return to school for students. Staff must continue to use supervised testing for weekly surveillance or return to work.

# Did the positive person expose anyone else at school? Did the person share an indoor space, such as a classroom, with students for >15 minutes over 24 hours? YES, STUDENTS YES, STAFF NO No further action is required. Follow guidance in Section C on Page 2.

## **Section B: Students**

- All students who were in the same shared indoor space with a confirmed case are considered part of the exposed group, regardless of vaccination status, and should receive a notification of exposure.
- Exposed students, regardless of vaccination status, should test at least once on day 3-5 after exposure unless they were previously infected with a lab-confirmed case of SARS-COV-2 within the last 90 days.
- Exposed students who were previously infected only need to test if symptoms develop.
- Exposed students who participate in testing may continue to take part in all school activities, including sports and other extracurricular activities, as long as they test negative and do not develop symptoms.
- Exposed students who remain in school and extra-curricular activities should otherwise follow home quarantine instructions, and it is strongly recommended to wear a well-fitted mask in all public places.
- ► Students who **show symptoms of COVID-19** should stay home until CDPH criteria is met:
  - ▶ At least 24 hours have passed since fever subsides (without fever-reducing medication);
  - Other symptoms have improved/subsided; and
  - Student has a negative COVID-19 test or healthcare provider has confirmed an alternative diagnosis.
- Any student who tests positive should isolate at home and follow the guidelines of Section A above.

## **Section C:** Staff (Must follow these actions - Cal/OSHA requirements)

#### A person who is boosted, vaccinated but not booster-eligible, or was positive in the past 90 days\*:

- Does not need to quarantine
- ▶ Test on day 5. Persons previously positive in the past 90 days do not need to test unless symptoms develop.
- ▶ Must wear a well-fitting mask around others at work for 10 days, especially in indoor settings.
- ▶ If testing positive, follow isolation recommendations.
- ▶ If symptoms develop, test and stay home.

#### A person who is booster-eligible but has not received a booster yet\*:

- ▶ In a workplace setting, asymptomatic employees in this category may come to work as long as:
  - ▶ A negative diagnostic test is obtained within 3-5 days after last exposure to a case
  - ▶ Employee wears a well-fitting mask around others at work for a total of 10 days
  - ► Employee continues to have no symptoms.
- ► In all other settings, the person should quarantine as described below. Quarantine can end on day 5 with a negative test on or after day 5.

#### **Unvaccinated:**

- ▶ Stay home for at least 5 days after last contact with a person who has COVID-19.
- ► Test on day 5.
- Quarantine can end after day 5 if symptoms are not present and a diagnostic specimen collected on day 5 or later tests negative.
- ▶ If unable to test or choosing not to test, **and** no symptoms, quarantine can end after day 10.
- ▶ Must wear a well-fitting mask around others at work for 10 days, especially in indoor settings.
- ▶ If testing positive, follow isolation recommendations.
- ▶ If symptoms develop, test and stay home.

# Section D: A person (staff or student) was exposed outside of supervised school setting

**Students:** Follow Section B guidance on Page 1. **Staff:** Follow Section C guidelines above.

## **Section E: Vaccination Definitions and Notes**

- Fully vaccinated for **students** means it has been at least 2 weeks since their second dose.
   Students do not need to be boosted to be considered vaccinated, even if they are eligible.
- An employee is fully vaccinated if it has been at least 2 weeks since their second dose of a
  Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, or since their first dose of a J&J vaccine.
- An employee is booster-eligible if it has been more than 5 months since second Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, or more than 2 months since initial J&J vaccine.
- Antigen Tests preferred for ending isolation/quarantine. Home tests are acceptable for students for shortened isolation or return to school.
- Staff must continue to use supervised testing for weekly surveillance or return to work.