

Note: This document replaces and supersedes the document COVID-19 Response Guidance for Schools, Version 7.0, dated April 3 2023. As of Version 8.0, there are separate guidance documents for Students vs. Employees.

Updates as of January 9, 2024: [California Department of Public Health COVID-19 Isolation Guidance](#) moved away from five days of isolation and instead focus on clinical symptoms to determine when to end isolation.

Section A: Recommendations for students who test positive for COVID-19

1. **Stay home if the person has COVID-19 symptoms**, until they have not had a fever for 24 hours without using fever reducing medication AND other [COVID-19 symptoms](#) are mild and improving.
 - If the person does not have symptoms, they should follow the recommendations below to reduce exposure to others.
2. **Mask** (unless unable to mask due to age, medical, cognitive, sensory, or behavioral conditions) when the person who tests positive is around other people indoors for the 10 days* after they become sick or test positive (if no symptoms). They may remove their mask sooner than 10 days if they have two sequential negative tests at least one day apart. Day 0 is symptom onset date or positive test date.
3. **Avoid contact with people at higher-risk for severe COVID-19 for 10 days***. Higher-risk individuals include pregnant people, the elderly, those who live in congregate care facilities, those who have immunocompromising conditions, and that put them at higher risk for serious illness.
4. **Seek Treatment**. If the person has symptoms, particularly if they are at [higher risk for severe COVID-19](#), speak with a healthcare provider as soon as they test positive. They may be eligible for [antiviral medicines](#) or other treatments for COVID-19. COVID-19 antiviral medicines work best if taken as soon as possible, and within 5-7 days from when symptoms start.
 - Call 1-833-422-4255 if unable to contact a healthcare provider, or use the [treatment options](#) to find one.
 - **Call Humboldt County Covid Line at 707-449-4913 with any questions related to new recommendations or to discuss testing and treatment guidance**

*The potential infectious period is 2 days before the date of symptoms began or the positive test date (if no symptoms) through Day 10. (Day 0 is the symptom onset date or positive test date).

Section B: Recommendation for close contacts of cases

- **If the close contact has [new COVID-19 symptoms](#)**, they should [test](#) and mask right away.
- **If the close contact does not have symptoms**, and is at [higher risk](#) of severe COVID-19 infection and would benefit from treatment, they should test within 5 days.
- **If the close contact does not have symptoms** and has contact with people who are at higher risk for severe infection, they should mask indoors when around such people for 10 days. Consider testing within 5 days after the last exposure date (Day 0) and before contact with higher-risk people. For further details, see [CDPH COVID-19 testing guidance](#).

Any person who tests positive should isolate at home and follow the guidelines of Section A above.

Resource: CDPH: [Guidance for K-12 Schools and Child Care Settings to Mitigate the Spread of Communicable Disease, 2023 -2024 School Year.](#)