

Protocol for School Staff
K-12 Settings
[K-12 Guidance 2021-22 School Year \(ca.gov\)](#)

This protocol aligns with the CDPH Schools Guidance dated 7/12/2021 and updated 8/2/2021

For details on required masking in K-12 public and private schools see [K-12 Schools Guidance 2021-2022 Q & A](#)

For details on required vaccination and testing of teachers in K-12 public and private schools see [Vaccine Verification for Workers in Schools](#)

GUIDANCE FOR STAFF

Exposed* – Asymptomatic – Fully Vaccinated (or tested positive for COVID-19 prior to the new, recent exposure)

May continue going to work, if it has been less than 3 months since their first positive COVID-19 test. Must continue to mask while indoors and adhere to other non-pharmaceutical interventions (e.g., handwashing)

- If staff becomes symptomatic, exclude from work, isolate, and recommend testing. If PCR test is positive, staff must follow protocol for **Positive COVID-19 Test**.

Exposed* – Asymptomatic – Not Fully Vaccinated (or not previously infected within the last 3 months prior to the current exposure)

- While test is pending continue home quarantine.
 - If school staff PCR is negative:
 - If source patient ruled out, discontinue quarantine and clear for work if asymptomatic.
 - If source patient is positive or unknown, and school staff remains asymptomatic, can return to work after day 10 **without** testing.
 - Quarantine can end after day 7, if a diagnostic specimen is collected after day 5 from the date of last exposure and tests negative, and school staff remains asymptomatic.
- Must continue wearing mask while indoors and adhering to other non-pharmaceutical interventions through day 14
- If staff member becomes symptomatic, continue to exclude from work and refer for PCR testing. If test is negative, consider evaluation for other potential causes. Should still complete quarantine period regardless of negative result.
- If PCR is positive, must follow protocol for **Positive COVID-19 Test**.

Exposed* – Symptomatic – Regardless of Vaccination Status

- Exclude from work and instruct to begin 10-day isolation at home immediately.
- Require PCR testing after day 5. While test is pending continue home isolation.
 - Monitor for worsening of respiratory symptoms or development of additional symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 (e.g., new loss of taste or smell).
- Notify School Health Office or Liaison immediately and share test results.
- If test is positive, staff must follow **Positive COVID-19 Test** protocol in this document.
- If test is negative, but still symptomatic, an individualized assessment for other potential diagnoses (e.g., flu) is required to determine whether repeat testing is indicated.
- If test is negative and no longer symptomatic:
 - If index case is ruled out, discontinue isolation and clear for work.

- If index case is positive, complete 10-day quarantine. May return to work *after* the quarantine period is over, if the person is asymptomatic and afebrile for at least 24 hours without taking fever reducing medication.

No Known Exposure – Symptomatic – Regardless of Vaccination Status

- Exclude from work and instruct to start 10-day isolation at home immediately.
- Recommend PCR testing. While test is pending continue home isolation.
- Notify School Health Officer or Liaison immediately and share test results.
- If test is positive, staff must follow **Positive COVID-19 Test** protocol.
- A staff member may be released from isolation and return to work if: PCR test result is negative, and symptoms have improved OR at least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; OR a healthcare provider has provided documentation that the symptoms are typical of their underlying chronic condition; OR a healthcare provider has confirmed an alternative diagnosis; OR at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset.
- If test result is **negative** but still symptomatic:
 - Ensure staff was tested after day 5 from symptom onset.
 - If not, recommend retest.
 - If so, an individualized assessment for other potential diagnosis (e.g., flu) is required
- If staff refuse to test, staff must remain on home isolation through Day-10 and can return on Day 11 as long as 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and symptoms have improved.

Positive COVID-19 Test – Regardless of Vaccination Status

Confirmed COVID-19 Test with symptoms:

*To remain on home isolation until **all** conditions are met:*

- *At least 10 days have passed since onset of symptoms **and***
- Resolution of fever for at least 24 hours without use of fever-reducing medication **and**
- Improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath; sore throat).

Encourage school staff not to retest for at least 90 days (unless known exposure and symptomatic)

Confirmed COVID-19 Test with no symptoms or the onset of symptoms is unknown:

- Remain on home isolation until 10 days have passed since the date of their positive test assuming they have not subsequently developed symptoms.
- Encourage school staff not to retest for at least 90 days (unless known exposure and symptomatic).
- If staff develop symptoms during 10-day isolation, they can return to school after the 10-day isolation is completed **and**
- fever has been resolved for at least 24 hours without use of fever-reducing medication **and**
- improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath; sore throat).
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****Close contact within six feet of an infected person for a cumulative 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.***