

QUICK GUIDE FOR SCHOOLS REGARDING SUSPECTED OR CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASES AND EXPOSURES

SOLANO PUBLIC HEALTH | September 1, 2021

This document incorporates Solano Public Health's guidance regarding suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cases and exposures in school settings. This document supplements and aligns with guidance from the State's [COVID-19 Reopening Framework and Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California](#).

I. Notifying Solano Public Health

Please report a confirmed COVID-19 case by emailing the COVID-19 Case Notification Template to schoolcict@solanocounty.com and ccoutee@solanocounty.com. If the positive case has not been present on school grounds **within 10 days** before the positive test date, reporting is not required.

For **three or more potentially linked COVID-19 cases** within a two-week period in the school setting, please email schoolcict@solanocounty.com to alert our team.

II. Case Notification Form and Close Contact Notification Forms

The [Case Notification Form](#) is used to gather information from the COVID-19 confirmed case to help prevent or mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in schools and fulfill the reporting requirement. Upon learning that a staff, student or other personnel has tested positive for COVID-19, you can work with your **District COVID Liaison** for the next steps. If your school does not have a District COVID Liaison, your School Point of Contact should do the following:

- 1) Send a notification letter to the confirmed case. The notification should not be delayed while awaiting consultation with Solano Public Health.
- 2) Fill out the Case Notification Form.
- 3) Notify those who may have been exposed to the case.
- 4) The District COVID Liaison or School Point of Contact can then send the form(s) to schoolcict@solanocounty.com and ccoutee@solanocounty.com.

III. Quarantine Recommendations for Students (without symptoms)

A. Fully vaccinated students with no symptoms

- No quarantine needed from school or after school activities.
 - Testing recommended at day 3-5.
 - Continue daily self-monitoring for symptoms through Day 14 from last exposure.
 - Masking/handwashing/social distancing through Day 14 from last exposure.

B. Unvaccinated students for exposures in the school setting when both parties were wearing a mask

- Modified 10-day quarantine; close contacts may continue to attend school for in-person instruction. Considerations for modified quarantine include:
 - Must remain without symptoms.
 - Continue to appropriately mask, as required.
 - Undergo twice weekly testing during the 10-day quarantine.

- Quarantine from all extracurricular activities after school, including sports, and activities within the community setting.
- Quarantine can end after Day 7 if a diagnostic specimen is collected after Day 5 from the date of last exposure and tests negative.
 - Continue to monitor for symptom development through Day 14 from last exposure.
 - Masking/handwashing/social distancing through Day 14 from last exposure.
- Recess/lunch activity recommendations:
 - Masking when not eating.
 - Physical distancing/cohorting as possible.

C. Unvaccinated students who were not wearing masks or for whom the infected individual was not wearing a mask during the indoor exposure; or unvaccinated students as described above

- Home quarantine with test out option:
 - Quarantine can end after Day 10 from the date of last exposure without testing; OR
 - Quarantine can end after Day 7 if a diagnostic specimen is collected after Day 5 from the date of last exposure and tests negative.
 - Continue daily self-monitoring for symptoms through Day 14 from last exposure.
 - Masking/handwashing/social distancing through Day 14 from last exposure.

*If any symptoms develop during the 14-day monitoring period, the exposed person should immediately self-isolate, get tested and contact their healthcare provider with any questions regarding their care.

IV. Quarantine for Staff

Fully vaccinated employees without symptoms do not need to be quarantined after close contact with COVID-19 cases; testing is recommended at day 3-5 and continue to wear a mask for 14 days from last exposure outside of school hours. Unvaccinated staff must home quarantine for 10 days.

V. Testing Sites

Solano Public Health recommends that close contacts or asymptomatic individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 using an antigen test get tested through their healthcare provider or through community testing sites, such as:

LHI www.lhi.care/covidtesting or

Verily Project Baseline www.projectbaseline.com/studies/covid-19/

Additional testing sites are available in Solano County here: www.bit.ly/solanotestingsites

VI. Steps to Take for Confirmed Case Exposures

Scenario	Action	Communication
1. Student/staff is having symptoms of COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student/staff will be sent home. Persons waiting for transportation will wait in isolated space. • Test at site if possible, otherwise recommend testing. • Potential close contacts remain unquarantined until the person is confirmed to have COVID-19. • School/classroom remains open. 	
2. Student/staff tested positive for COVID-19 (via antigen or PCR test)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email the COVID-19 Notification Form to schoolcict@solanocounty.com and cc ccoutee@solanocounty.com. • Student/staff should remain at home for 10 days following symptom development or 10 days after testing date (if no symptoms) and 24 hours after fever resolution without using fever-reducing medications. • Identify close contacts of the person with COVID-19 and quarantine contacts. • Disinfection and cleaning of classroom and primary spaces where case spent significant time. • School/classroom remains open. <p>NOTE: In some situations, the staff/student may have severe illness that warrants a prolonged isolation of 20 days. This will be determined by the individual's medical provider.</p>	<p>School provides Isolation Guidance to student/staff.</p> <p>School notifies contacts.</p>
3. Symptomatic person tests negative or a healthcare provider has provided documentation that the symptoms are typical of their underlying chronic condition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May return to school after 24 hours have passed without fever and symptoms have started improving. • School/classroom remains open. 	
4. Student/staff notifies school that they are a close contact to a confirmed case outside of the school setting and they are not symptomatic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarantine depends on vaccination status of individual. • Vaccinated individuals do not need to quarantine. Testing at day 3-5 recommended. • Unvaccinated individuals must home quarantine for 10 days from last exposure. May end quarantine after day 7 if testing after day 5 is negative. • For vaccinated and unvaccinated continue daily self-monitoring for symptoms through Day 14 from last exposure as well as masking/handwashing/social distancing through Day 14 from last exposure. • School/classroom remains open. 	<p>No action needed if exposure did not occur in school setting.</p>

VII. Definitions

- **Confirmed case:** A person who has a positive lab test result for COVID-19.
- **Symptoms of COVID-19:** Symptoms include fever over 100.4 or higher, subjective fever, chills, new cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting and/or diarrhea
- **Infectious Period:** When a person with a positive COVID-19 test is considered infectious/contagious to others. The infectious period starts 2 days before symptom onset or 2 days from positive test if asymptomatic (no symptoms) and continues for 10 days after the date of symptom onset or positive test.
- **Close Contact:** A close contact is someone who was within 6 feet of a person with COVID-19 for at least 15 minutes cumulative/total over the course of a 24-hour period, starting from 2 days before illness onset (or for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to positive testing date), continuing until the time the positive case is isolated. Close contact also refers to direct physical contact with the person, shared eating or drinking utensils, or being coughed or sneezed on by the positive case.
- **Isolation:** Staying home from work, school, and/or activities during a person's infectious period. Isolation decreases transmission of illness to others.

For mild to moderate illness:

Isolation lasts for 10 days after the onset of symptoms and 24 hours fever-free without fever-reducing medication. For people who have not had symptoms, isolation lasts 10 days from the day they gave the sample for their first positive test.

For severe to critical illness and if staff/student is severely immunocompromised:

In some instances where the case is critically ill or is severely immunocompromised, as determined by an individual's medical provider, isolation may last 20 days and 24 hours fever-free without fever reducing medication.

- **Quarantine:** Staying home from work, school, and/or activities when a person has been identified as a close contact of someone confirmed to have COVID-19. Quarantine of close contacts decreases potential transmission of COVID-19 if the exposed person ends up developing symptoms or testing COVID-19 positive. For asymptomatic contacts, quarantine can last up to 10 days if no further exposure takes place and they must continue to mask and continue to check for symptoms for 14 days from last exposure to the infected person. If the contact develops symptoms, they will then follow isolation guidance.
- **Modified Quarantine:** Quarantine option for students following close contact in the school setting between two parties who were both masked. This quarantine option allows for identified close contacts to continue to attend school for in-person instruction. They must quarantine at home outside of school hours and continue to monitor for symptoms daily when attending school.

- **School Outbreak:** Three or more laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases at one school site within a two-week period among students/staff who are epidemiologically linked through transmission at the school site.
- **Continuous and Unavoidable Exposure:** If a staff/student is unable to avoid close contact with a COVID-19 positive household member, they must stay in quarantine 10 days after the day the household member has completed their self-isolation. The quarantine period may be as long as 20 days if the positive COVID-19 person is not able to isolate from the exposed individual.