

How to Respond to Positive COVID-19 Tests & Close Contacts in School Settings

What is the definition of a close contact in school settings?

In schools, a close contact is defined as any student within 3 feet while wearing masks or any adult within 6 feet. Students who were more than 3 feet from an infected student are not considered close contacts if both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time. Adults who were more than 6 feet from an infected student or adult are not considered close contacts.

UNVACCINATED

VACCINATED

TEST POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

ISOLATE

- Report positive case to school nurse/COVID coordinator.
- Provide information for any close contacts from the school environment.
- **With Symptoms** -- You can be around others:
 - 1) 10 days after symptoms first appeared**AND**
 - 2) 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications**AND**
 - 3) Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving
(Note: Loss of taste and smell may persist for weeks or months after recovery and need not delay the end of isolation.)
- **Without Symptoms:**
 - Isolate for 10 days since your positive COVID-19 test.

CLOSE CONTACT WITHOUT SYMPTOMS

GET TESTED & QUARANTINE

- Quarantine until tested.
- Wear a mask around others.
- Get tested 5-7 days after exposure.
- **If positive**, isolate for 10 days since your positive COVID-19 test. Follow guidance for after testing positive for COVID-19 in the first box above.
- **If negative**, end quarantine after Day 7. Monitor for symptoms for 14 days.

GET TESTED & MONITOR

- No quarantine required.
- Get tested 3-5 days after exposure.
- Wear a mask around others for 14 days. If your test 3-5 days after exposure is negative, you no longer need to wear a mask (*except when required*).
- Monitor for symptoms for 14 days.
- **If positive**, follow guidance for after testing positive for COVID-19 in the first box above.

CLOSE CONTACT WITH SYMPTOMS

GET TESTED & ISOLATE

- Wear a mask and get tested. Stay home and isolate while you are waiting for your test results. If your test is negative, please talk with the school nurse and/or DPH epidemiologists to determine if you should be considered a probable case.
- **If positive**, follow guidance for after testing positive for COVID-19 in the first box above.

SYMPTOMS WITH NO KNOWN EXPOSURE

WEAR A MASK AND GET TESTED

- Wear a mask and get tested. Stay home and isolate while you are waiting for your test results.
- **If positive**: Follow guidance for after testing positive for COVID-19 in the first box above. Report case to school nurse/COVID coordinator and provide close contacts.
- **If negative**: Stay home while you have symptoms.

Social Distancing in Schools

CDC recommends **schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms, combined with indoor mask wearing** to reduce transmission risk. When it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of at least 3 feet, such as when schools cannot fully re-open while maintaining these distances, it is especially important to **layer multiple other prevention strategies**.

Read full CDC Guidance for K-12 Schools:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>