

## COVID-19 Protocols for TK-12 School Settings in Santa Barbara County:

**\*Revisions made to both student and employee sections on 1/13/2022 at 4:00 pm in coordination with Santa Barbara County Public Health School Team**

### STUDENTS

- When a **student has a confirmed case** of COVID-19 (regardless of vaccination status), they may:
  - Return to school on **Day 11 and** are fever-free for 24 hours with no fever-reducing medication **and** symptoms have improved **OR**
  - Return to school as early as **Day 6** with a negative test (on or after day 5; antigen test preferred) **and** are fever-free for 24 hours with no fever-reducing medication **and** symptoms have improved

### Individual Contact Tracing - Quarantine

**Schools now have the option of either continuing with individual contact tracing or following a group contact tracing approach.**

- When an **unvaccinated student has had close contact\* inside of school** with a person with a confirmed case of COVID-19 and **both individuals were masked** at the time of the close contact:
  - **Standard quarantine** at home and return to school as early as **Day 11** if symptoms are improving **OR**
  - **Modified quarantine** at school (excluded from sports, extracurricular activities and school activities) **and** are symptom-free **and** test twice weekly (recommend immediate and again between days 5-7). Modified quarantine may end as early as **Day 8** with negative test (on or after day 5) **OR**
  - **Shortened quarantine** at home and return to school as early as **Day 8** with a negative test (on or after day 5) **and** are symptom-free
- When an **unvaccinated student has had close contact\* inside of school** with a person with a confirmed case of COVID-19 and **both parties were unmasked** at the time of the close contact:
  - **Standard quarantine** at home and return to school as early as **Day 11** if symptoms are improving **OR**
  - **Shortened quarantine** at home and return to school as early as **Day 8** with a negative test (on or after day 5) **and** are symptom-free
- When an **unvaccinated student has had close contact outside of school** with a person with a confirmed case of COVID-19, they may:
  - Return to school on **Day 11** if symptom-free **OR**
  - Return to school on **Day 8** if they test negative (on or after day 5) **and** are symptom-free
  - For 14 days, wear mask, continue self monitoring, handwash, and avoid crowds

- When a **vaccinated\*\* student has had close contact inside or outside of school** with a person with a confirmed case of COVID-19:
  - Return to school provided there are no symptoms
  - Recommend to test between days 5-7 from close contact (antigen preferred), monitor symptoms; SBCPHD recommends testing days 3-5 from close contact
  - For 14 days, wear mask, continue self monitoring, handwash, and avoid crowds
- When a **student previously infected with COVID-19 within the last 90 days has had close contact inside or outside of school** with a person with a confirmed case of COVID-19:
  - Return to school provided there are no symptoms: OR
  - If symptoms develop, they should test and remain home

### Group Contact Tracing - Quarantine

**Schools now have the option of either continuing with individual contact tracing or following a group contact tracing approach.**

- Groups of students with close contact, regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status or prior infection, test within **3-5** days after last exposure.
  - In the event of wide-scale and/or repeated exposures, (e.g., grade-wide or campus-wide) weekly testing may be considered.
  - Any FDA-approved antigen, PCR, or pooled PCR test is acceptable. For individuals who have been recently infected (within the past 90 days), antigen testing is strongly recommended.
- Groups of students with close contact who participate in testing may continue to take part in all aspects of K-12 schooling, including sports and extracurricular activities, unless they develop symptoms or test positive for COVID-19. Test and report positive test results to the school.
  - Students who develop symptoms should be removed from school and follow guidance.
  - Students who receive a positive test result should isolate.

### SCHOOL EMPLOYEES

- **Employees who test positive for COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status, previous infection, or lack of symptoms**
  - **Must isolate at home for at least 5 days** from the onset of symptoms or the test date if asymptomatic ([confirmed with CDPH we may still use onset of symptoms for timeline](#))
  - May be released from isolation as early as Day 6 **IF**:
    - they have a negative test (antigen preferred) on Day 5 or later of isolation **AND**
    - symptoms are not present or are resolving **AND**
    - fever, if any, has resolved **AND**
    - wear a face covering around others for 10 days from the date of positive test, especially indoors.
  - If the employee chooses not to test, they must remain isolated at home for the remainder of the 10-day isolation period.
- **Employees who have had close contact and are fully vaccinated\* AND have a booster vaccination OR are not yet [eligible for a booster](#) vaccination** (\*14 days after the second dose of Pfizer or Moderna or the single dose of J & J).
  - If asymptomatic, they are **not required to quarantine at home**, however they must:
    - have a negative test (antigen preferred) on Day 5 **AND**

- remain symptom free **AND**
    - wear a face covering around others for 10 days from the date of close contact, especially indoors.
  - For employees who have recovered from a case of COVID-19 in the past 90 days, an antigen test is preferred.
  - If the employee chooses not to test, they may only remain at work if they:
    - wear a face covering **AND**
    - maintain 6 feet of distance for 14 days following the close contact.
  - If they are unable to physically distance, they must quarantine at home for the remainder of the 10-day quarantine period.
- **Employees who have had close contact and are fully vaccinated AND [eligible for a booster](#) BUT have not yet had a booster vaccination**
  - If asymptomatic, they are **not required to quarantine at home**, however they must:
    - have a negative test on Day 3-5 of quarantine **AND**
    - remain symptom free **AND**
    - wear a face covering around others for 10 days from the date of close contact, especially indoors.
  - For employees who have recovered from a case of COVID-19 in the past 90 days, an antigen test is preferred.
  - If they choose not to test, they must quarantine at home for the remainder of the 10-day quarantine period.
  - If they develop symptoms, they must be excluded from work pending test results.
- **Employees who have had close contact and are unvaccinated**
  - **Must quarantine at home** for at least 5 days from the date of close contact.
  - May be released from quarantine as early as Day 6 **IF** they:
    - have a negative test on Day 5 or later of quarantine **AND**
    - remain symptom-free **AND**
    - wear a face covering around others for 10 days from the date of close contact, especially indoors.
  - For employees who have recovered from a case of COVID-19 in the past 90 days, an antigen test is preferred.
  - If they choose not to test, they must remain in quarantine at home for the entire 10-day quarantine period.
  - If they develop symptoms, they must be excluded from work pending test results.
- **Employees who are unvaccinated and have recovered from a case of COVID-19 in past 90 days who have had close contact**
  - If asymptomatic, they are **not required to quarantine at home**, however they must:
    - wear a face covering **AND**
    - maintain 6 feet of distance for 14 days following the close contact.
  - If they are unable to physically distance, they must quarantine at home for the 10-day quarantine period.
  - They are **not required to test for 90 days** from the date of illness onset or positive test (if asymptomatic)

## **RETURNING TO SCHOOL AND WORK: SYMPTOMATIC STUDENTS and EMPLOYEES**

Before returning to school or work, symptomatic students and employees:

- Must remain out of school or work for 10 days **unless**:
- they test negative and have improving symptoms,

- **OR** have an alternative diagnosis from a doctor,
- **OR** have a doctor provide documentation of a chronic condition.

\***close contact** is defined within 6 feet from someone with a confirmed case of COVID-19 for 15 minutes or more within a 24-hours period

\*\*CDPH has confirmed fully vaccinated includes a booster vaccine only for those 18 and over. Per the CDC, vaccinations are considered effective 14 days after the second dose (or first dose if J&J).