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Protocols for Symptoms, Close Contacts, and COVID-19 Cases: Students in School Settings

This document is provided for technical assistance purposes and not intended to modify or supersede [CDPH K-12 Schools Guidance](#). In the event that a discrepancy exists between this document and current CDPH guidance; follow current CDPH guidance. This does not include guidance for staff in school settings; for staff follow [Cal/OSHA ETS](#) regulations.

Student(s) with:	ACTION	DISTRICT COMMUNICATION
<p>1. Any of the COVID-19 <u>symptoms</u>, regardless of the vaccination status of the individual or previous infection.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (Including “just a cold”). Symptoms are listed below on page 3 or accessible through above hyperlink. 	<p>SYMPTOMS</p> <p>Individual isolates at home. A medical evaluation is strongly encouraged.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students with symptoms of COVID-19 infection, regardless of vaccination status are not to return in-person until: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> At least 10 days have passed since symptom onset AND at least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever reducing medications AND other symptoms have improved OR A negative test* for SARS-CoV-2 (*Antigen Test preferred) and symptoms have improved OR A healthcare provider has provided documentation that the symptoms are typical of their underlying chronic condition (e.g., allergies or asthma), OR A healthcare provider has confirmed an alternative named diagnosis (e.g., Streptococcal pharyngitis, Coxsackie virus), IN ALL SCENARIOS ABOVE: Wear a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 10 days, especially when indoors. 	<p>Notify Close Contacts (For definition of close contacts see below)</p>

<p>2. Confirmed COVID-19 case regardless of vaccination status, previous infection or lack of symptoms. .</p>	<p>ISOLATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isolate case and exclude from school until return criteria has been met: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Stay Home for 10 days; OR ii. Isolation can end after day 5 if symptoms are not present OR are resolving AND tests negative on day 5 or later. (Antigen test preferred); OR iii. If fever is present, isolation should be continued until fever resolves without the use of fever reducing medications; OR iv. If symptoms, other than fever, are not resolving continue to isolate until symptoms are resolving or until <u>after day 10</u>. <p>ALL SCENARIOS ABOVE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v. Wear a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 10 days, especially indoors. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact trace and follow quarantine recommendations for close contacts above. • Initiate disinfection and cleaning of primary spaces where case spent significant time. • Notify SBC PHD of all positive COVID 19 case, <u>SBCPHD SS4A COVID Case Report</u>. • If 3 (or more) cases within a 14-day period, report a potential outbreak to Santa Barbara County Public Health Department Disease Control through the <u>COVID-19 Outbreak Reporting Form</u>, and/or phone Disease Control (805) 681- 5280. 	<p>Notify Close Contacts (For definition of close contacts see below)</p> <p>Schools are required to report COVID-19 cases to the local public health department*.</p> <p>For technical assistance contact Georgene Lowe, RN; Georgene.Lowe@sbcphd.org or (805) 705-6911</p>
<p>3. When an UNVACINATED Student has close contact with a person with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the community or a household</p> <p><u>Outside of School</u></p> <p>*Quarantine begins the day after last close contact to a positive person.</p>	<p>QUARANTINE: Outside of School Close Contacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Students may return on Day 11 after a 10-day quarantine if symptom free OR; ii. Students may return on Day 8 if negative test (antigen test preferred) on or after day 5 and are symptom free. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To discontinue quarantine before 14 days following last known exposure, asymptomatic close contacts must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue daily self-monitoring for symptoms through Day 14 from last known exposure; AND • Follow all recommended non-pharmaceutical interventions (e.g., wear a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 14 days, especially in indoor settings, hand washing, avoiding crowds) through Day 14 from last known exposure; AND • If any symptoms develop during this 14-day period, the exposed person must immediately isolate, get tested and contact their healthcare provider with any questions regarding their care. 	<p>Consider school community notification of a known case.</p>

<p>4. When an UNVACCINATED Student has close contact with a person with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the school setting.</p> <p>Inside of School</p>	<p>Quarantine: In School Close Contacts In school close contacts who are asymptomatic may discontinue self-quarantine under the following applicable conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Standard Quarantine can end after Day 10 from the date of last close contact without testing; OR ii. Modified Quarantine (both parties wore face coverings and were in school setting): Attend school with face covering but exclude from sports, extracurricular, & school activities) AND test twice during the ten days following close contact date; AND quarantine can end on Day 8 with negative test on Day 5 or later from date of last close contact; OR iii. Shortened Quarantine (either party did not wear face covering) Quarantine for 10 days; AND quarantine can end on Day 8 if a diagnostic specimen is collected on Day 5 or later from date of last exposure and test result is negative. <p>IN ALL SCENARIOS ABOVE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Continue daily self-monitoring for symptoms through Day 14 from last known exposure; AND ii. Follow all recommended non-pharmaceutical interventions (e.g., wear a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 14 days, especially in indoor settings, hand washing, avoiding crowds) through Day 14 from last known exposure; AND iii. If any symptoms develop during this 14-day period, the exposed person must immediately isolate, get tested and contact their healthcare provider with any questions regarding their care. 	
<p>5 Fully Vaccinated ² Student has close contact with a person with a confirmed case of COVID-19 inside or outside of school.</p> <p>Includes persons previously infected with SARS-Cov-2, in the 90 days prior</p> <p>Inside or outside of school</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Refrain from quarantine following a known exposure if asymptomatic AND recommend test on days 3-5 from close contact (antigen test preferred); AND ii. Wear a well-fitting mask around others for 14 days, especially in indoor settings; OR iii. If tests positive, follow isolation recommendations above; OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If symptoms develop, follow symptoms recommendations above. 	<p>Consider school community notification of a known contact.</p>

**Per AB 86 (2021) and California Code Title 17, section 2500, schools are required to report COVID-19 cases to the local public health department. Schools or LEAs should have a COVID-19 liaison to assist the local health department with contact tracing and investigation.*

¹ A **close contact is:** Someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (for example, three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes). An infected person can spread SARS-CoV-2 starting 2 days before they have any symptoms (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days before the positive specimen collection date). In some school situations, it may be difficult to determine whether individuals have met this criterion and an entire cohort, classroom, or other group may need to be considered exposed, particularly if people have spent time together indoors [without masking and social distancing].

²Refer to [CDC COVID-19 Booster Shots](#) to determine who is booster eligible. (As of January 7, 2022 CDPH, confirmed that only 18 and over must have a booster to be considered fully vaccinated)

Symptoms of Coronavirus

This list does not include all possible COVID-19 symptoms. CDC and CDPH will continue to update this list.

- Fever or chills
- 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
- Diarrhea