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Effective April 6, 2022

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 FAQ's](#) regulations.

| STUDENT(S) WITH: | RECOMMENDED ACTION: SYMPTOMS OF ILLNESS | COMMUNICATION/ NOTIFICATION |
|--|--|------------------------------------|
| 1. Any of the COVID-19 symptoms , regardless of the vaccination status of the individual or previous infection. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (Including “just a cold”). Symptoms are listed below on page 3 or accessible through above hyperlink. | SYMPTOMS Individual isolates at home. A medical evaluation is strongly encouraged. <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 preferred²) 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: Per CDPH masking guidance, it is strongly recommended to wear a well-fitting mask | Notify Close Contacts ¹ |

| | around others for a total of 10 days after positive test or symptom onset, especially when indoors. | |
|--|---|--|
| STUDENT(S) WITH: | RECOMMENDED ACTION: ISOLATION | COMMUNICATION/ NOTIFICATION |
| <p>2. Confirmed COVID-19 case regardless of vaccination status, previous infection or lack of symptoms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If Asymptomatic, day 0= date first positive • If Symptomatic, day 0=date first symptom | <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 preferred²); 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</u> day 10. <p>ALL SCENARIOS ABOVE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v. Per CDPH masking guidance, it is strongly recommended that persons wear a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 10 days after positive test or symptom onset, especially in indoor settings • Contact trace and follow quarantine recommendations for close contacts. • Initiate disinfection and cleaning of primary spaces where case spent significant time. • Notify SBC PHD of all positive COVID 19 case, SBCPHD SS4A COVID Case Report. • 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 COVID-19 Outbreak Reporting Form, and/or phone Disease Control (805) 681- 5280. | <p>Notify Close Contacts¹</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; GLowe@sbcphd.org or (805) 705-6911</p> <p>Jan Chytilo, MS; jchytilo@sbcphd.org or 805-729-7159</p> |

| STUDENT(S) WITH: | RECOMMENDED ACTION: CLOSE CONTACT WITH A CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASE | COMMUNICATION/ NOTIFICATION |
|---|--|---|
| <p>3. When a Student, regardless of vaccination status or previous COVID -19 infection has close contact with a person with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in school, the community or a household.</p> <p>Day 0=last date of known close contact</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools may consider permitting asymptomatic exposed students, regardless of their COVID-19 vaccination status or location of exposure, to 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. It is strongly recommended that exposed students wear a well-fitting mask indoors around others for at least 10 days following the date of last exposure, if not already doing so. <p>a. Exposed students, regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status, should get tested for COVID-19 with at least one diagnostic test (e.g., an FDA-authorized antigen diagnostic test, PCR diagnostic test, or pooled PCR test) obtained within 3-5 days after last exposure, unless they had COVID-19 within the last 90 days.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Exposed students who had COVID-19 within the last 90 days do not need to be tested after exposure but should monitor for symptoms. If symptoms develop, they should isolate and get tested with an antigen test. ii. If the exposed student has symptoms consistent with COVID-19, they should stay home, get tested and follow the guidance in Section #1 above. iii. If the exposed student tests positive for COVID-19, follow the guidance for isolation in Section #2 above. | <p>Follow the Group Tracing Guidance for notification recommendations for exposures that occur in a school setting.</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 sharing the same indoor airspace, e.g. home, clinic waiting room, airplane etc., 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) during an infected person’s (laboratory-confirmed or a [clinical diagnosis](#)) infectious period. 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].

² Any FDA-approved antigen diagnostic test, PCR diagnostic test, or pooled PCR test is acceptable for evaluation of an individual's COVID-19 status. An antigen test is preferred for testing out of isolation and quarantine. At-Home antigen tests are acceptable for this purpose. A confirmatory PCR test is not necessary following a positive antigen test. For individuals who have been recently infected (within the past 90 days), antigen testing is strongly recommended as PCR results may remain persistently positive and not be indicative of a new active infection. Repeat antigen testing and/or confirmatory molecular testing should be considered in individuals who receive a negative result with an antigen test but have symptoms specific for COVID-19 (such as loss of taste and smell).

³ **Fully vaccinated** means a person has received their [primary series](#) of COVID-19 vaccines.

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