



Summary of State K-12 School Guidance for Masking, Isolation, and Quarantining *(as of August 26, 2021)*

This factsheet summarizes the state guidance regarding these issues. Local health jurisdictions and collective bargaining agreements may have additional safety requirements. Make sure to read your local health department guidelines and safety MOU language.

Masking in Schools

[CDPH Schools Guidance, Paragraph 1](#) and [Face Mask Guidance](#)

- Masks are optional outdoors
- Masks are required indoors for students and adults sharing spaces with students, except for those who meet one of four categories of exemptions. Medically exempted individuals must still wear a non-restrictive alternative, where their medical condition permits.
- [Cal/OSHA](#) mask standards apply when adults are *not* with students: face coverings are required indoors and in vehicles for unvaccinated employees, except when alone in a room or vehicle, when eating and drinking, when an accommodation is required, or when job duties make a face covering infeasible or creates a hazard.
- Schools must have procedures to [enforce the mask requirements](#) and protocols for providing a face covering to any student who inadvertently fails to bring one to school. Procedures for enforcing mask requirements should include independent study for students who refuse to wear masks.

All Positive COVID-19 Cases Must Isolate

Anyone who has COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status, must stay home from school and isolate per [public health guidelines](#). Duration differs based on symptoms. *Isolation* (not quarantine) is the public health term used when describing that a person who has tested positive for COVID should stay home from school and away from others.

School Quarantine for Close Contacts Differs Depending on Many Factors

Quarantine is the public health term when describing the limitations in activities for a person who has been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19. *Close contact* is the term used for an individual who has been within 0-6 feet of someone who has COVID for more than a cumulative total of 15 minutes over a 24-hour period.

Staff Quarantine: The [Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Emergency Temporary Standard](#) applies (see pg. 15)

- Unvaccinated employees must quarantine after a close contact with someone who is positive for COVID-19.
- Employees who were fully vaccinated before the close contact and who do not develop COVID symptoms are not required to quarantine.
- Employees who tested positive for COVID-19 within past 90 days, have recovered, and remain symptom-free also do not need to quarantine.

Student Quarantine: CDPH quarantine [guidelines for K-12 schools](#) apply to those students who had a close contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19. The quarantine path for students differs based on vaccination status, exposure location, masks, symptoms, and testing (*please see the chart and policy links on the next page for more details*).



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ISOLATION

Who has COVID-19?	Isolate?	Policy
Vaccinated staff and students	Yes	Duration differs based on symptoms. Consult the CDPH Guidance on Isolation and Quarantine for COVID-19 Contact Tracing for duration details.
Unvaccinated staff and students	Yes	

QUARANTINE

Who was in close contact with someone who has COVID-19?	Quarantine?	Policy
Vaccinated Staff, no symptoms	No	CDPH Recs for Fully Vaccinated People
Unvaccinated Staff, with or without symptoms	Yes	Cal/OSHA COVID-19 ETS (p. 15)
Vaccinated Staff, with symptoms	Yes	CDPH Recs for Fully Vaccinated People
Vaccinated Students, no symptoms	No	CDPH Recs for Fully Vaccinated People
Vaccinated Students, with symptoms	Yes	CDPH Recs for Fully Vaccinated People
Unvaccinated Students	<i>It depends</i>	CDPH K-12 Schools Guidance
The close contact has symptoms or develops symptoms during the following 14-day period	Yes	See #9c
If each is met: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Indoor exposure at school <input type="checkbox"/> No mask for close contact <u>or</u> no mask for infected person 	Yes	See #9 for more details and duration of quarantine depending on testing. For outdoor exposures where one party isn't wearing a mask, LEAs should consult with the local health department.
If each is met: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Mask-wearing by <u>both</u> the close contact and the infected individual <input type="checkbox"/> At least twice weekly testing during the 10-day quarantine period <input type="checkbox"/> Exposure occurred in any school setting in which students are supervised by school staff including indoors, outdoors, and school buses <input type="checkbox"/> Mask-wearing continues <input type="checkbox"/> No symptoms 	Modified Quarantine	See #8 . No quarantine from in-person instruction. The close contact may continue to attend school for in-person instruction but must quarantine from all extracurricular activities at school, including sports, and activities within the community. See #9 . If twice weekly testing is unavailable, close contacts should be quarantined.
Exposure was with an infected individual at home or in the community; not at school.	Yes	CDPH Guidance on Isolation and Quarantine for COVID-19 Contact Tracing