# COVID-19 Response Guidance for Schools

Version 4.1 | Revised 3.18.2022 | Developed in consultation with Humboldt County Public Health

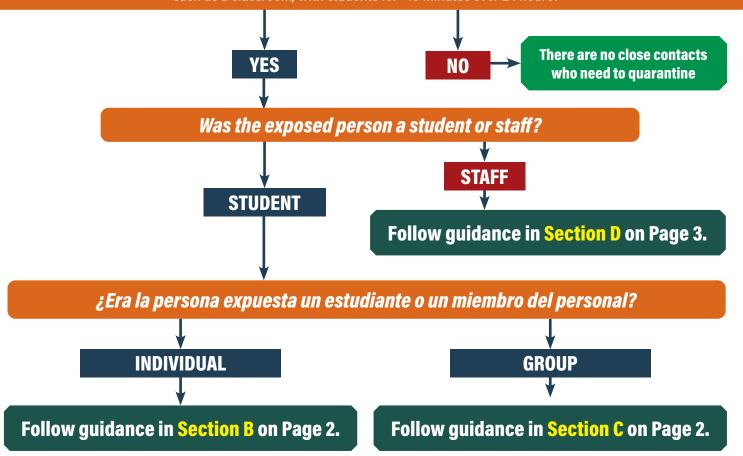
## **Section A:** A person tests positive for COVID-19

### **Regardless of vaccination, previous infection, or lack of symptoms:**

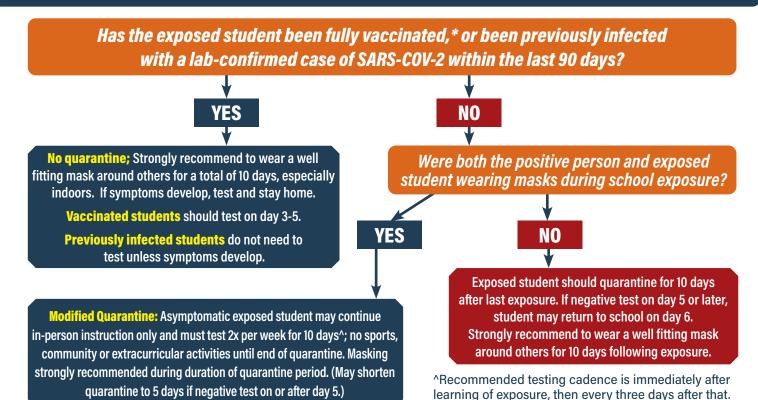
- Stay home for at least 5 days.
- Isolation can end after day 5 and person may return to school/work on day 6 if:
  - Symptoms are not present or are resolving; and
  - ▶ a test\* collected on day 5 or later is negative.
- If unable to test or choosing not to test, and no symptoms, isolation can end after day 10.
- ▶ If fever is present, isolation should be continued until fever resolves for at least 24 hours without use of fever-reducing medications.
- ▶ If symptoms, other than fever, are not resolving continue to isolate until symptoms are resolving or until after day 10.
- For staff, Cal/OSHA requires wearing a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 10 days, especially in indoor settings. For students, a well-fitting mask is strongly recommended.
  - \*Antigen test preferred. Home tests are now acceptable for return to work/school.

### Did the positive person expose anyone else at school?

Was the person within 6 feet of anyone else for >15 minutes over a 24-hour period within 48 hours before symptom onset or positive test? In a **group tracing environment**, did the person share an indoor space, such as a classroom, with students for >15 minutes over 24 hours?



# **Section B: School is using individual tracing**



# **Section C:** School is using group tracing

- ▶ All students who were in the same shared indoor space (e.g., a classroom) for >15 minutes over 24 hours with a confirmed case are considered part of the exposed group, regardless of vaccination status.
- ▶ Exposed students, regardless of vaccination status, should test at least once on day 3-5 after exposure unless they were previously infected with a lab-confirmed case of SARS-COV-2 within the last 90 days.
- ▶ Exposed students who were previously infected only need to test if symptoms develop.
- ▶ Exposed students who participate in testing may continue to take part in all school activities, including sports and other extracurricular activities, as long as they test negative and do not develop symptoms.
- Exposed students who remain in school and extra-curricular activities should otherwise follow home quarantine instructions, and it is strongly recommended to wear a well-fitted mask in all public places.
- Students who show symptoms of COVID-19 should stay home until CDPH criteria is met:
  - ▶ At least 24 hours have passed since fever subsides (without fever-reducing medication);
  - Other symptoms have improved/subsided; and
  - Student has a negative COVID-19 test or healthcare provider has confirmed an alternative diagnosis.
- ▶ Students who do not participate in testing should quarantine at home for 10 days after last exposure. Masking is strongly recommended during duration of quarantine period.
- Any student who tests positive should isolate at home and follow the guidelines of Section A on Page 1.
- **Exception:** If an unvaccinated student and the positive person were not both wearing masks during exposure, the unvaccinated exposed student should quarantine for 10 days, the same as in Section B. If negative test on day 5 or later, student may return to school on day 6. Masking is recommended for the duration of quarantine period.

# **Section D:** Staff (Must follow these actions - Cal/OSHA requirements)

#### A person who is boosted, vaccinated but not booster-eligible, or was positive in the past 90 days\*:

- Does not need to quarantine
- ▶ Test on day 5. Persons previously positive in the past 90 days do not need to test unless symptoms develop.
- Must wear a well-fitting mask around others at work for 10 days, especially in indoor settings.
- ▶ If testing positive, follow isolation recommendations.
- ▶ If symptoms develop, test and stay home.

#### A person who is booster-eligible but has not received a booster yet\*:

- ▶ In a workplace setting, asymptomatic employees in this category may come to work as long as:
  - ▶ A negative diagnostic test is obtained within 3-5 days after last exposure to a case
  - ▶ Employee wears a well-fitting mask around others at work for a total of 10 days
  - ► Employee continues to have no symptoms.
- ► In all other settings, the person should quarantine as described below. Quarantine can end on day 5 with a negative test on or after day 5.

#### **Unvaccinated:**

- ▶ Stay home for at least 5 days after last contact with a person who has COVID-19.
- ► Test on day 5.
- Quarantine can end after day 5 if symptoms are not present and a diagnostic specimen collected on day 5 or later tests negative.
- ▶ If unable to test or choosing not to test, **and** no symptoms, quarantine can end after day 10.
- ▶ Must wear a well-fitting mask around others at work for 10 days, especially in indoor settings.
- ▶ If testing positive, follow isolation recommendations.
- ▶ If symptoms develop, test and stay home.

## Section E: A person (staff or student) was exposed outside of supervised school setting

**Student who is vaccinated\* or has been previously infected in last 90 days:** Does not need to quarantine; test on day 5. Strongly recommend wearing a well-fitting mask around others for 10 days, especially in indoor settings. If testing positive, follow isolation recommendations. If symptoms develop, test and stay home.

**Non-vaccinated student:** Exposed student should quarantine for 10 days after last exposure. If negative test on day 5 or later, student may return to school on day 6. Strongly recommend wearing a well-fitting mask around others for 10 days, especially in indoor settings.

**Staff:** Follow Section D guidelines above.

### **\*Vaccination Definitions**

Fully vaccinated for **students** means it has been **at least 2 weeks** since their second dose. Students **do not need to be boosted** to be considered vaccinated, even if they are eligible.

An **employee** is fully vaccinated if it has been **at least 2 weeks** since their second dose of a Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, or since their first dose of a J&J vaccine.

An **employee** is booster-eligible if it has been more than **5 months** since second Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, or more than **2 months** since initial J&J vaccine.

Antigen Tests preferred for ending isolation/quarantine. Home tests are acceptable for shortened quarantine, shortened isolation, modified quarantine, or return to work/school.