CDPH COVID-19 Exposure Guide for Schools

Updated July 29, 2020



Measures that should be taken when a student, teacher or staff member:

- Has COVID-19 symptoms,
- Is a contact of someone infected, or
- Is diagnosed with COVID-19

	SCENARIO	ACTION	COMMUNICATION
1	Student or staff with COVID-19 symptoms (e.g., fever, cough, loss of taste or smell, difficulty breathing): • Symptom Screening per CA School Sector Specific Guidelines	 Send home Recommend testing (If positive, see #3. If negative, see #4) School/classroom remain open 	No action needed
2	Student or staff is a close contact** with a confirmed COVID-19 case	 Send home Quarantine for 14 days from last exposure Recommend testing (but will not shorten 14-day quarantine) School/classroom remain open 	Consider school community notification of a known contact
3	A student or staff with confirmed COVID-19 case infection	 Notify the local public health department Isolate case and exclude from school for 10 days from symptom onset or test date Identify contacts**, quarantine & exclude exposed contacts (likely entire cohort (†) for 14 days after the last date the case was present at school while infectious Recommend testing of contacts, prioritize symptomatic contacts (but will not shorten 14-day quarantine) Disinfection and cleaning of classroom and primary spaces where case spent significant time School remains open 	School community notification of a known case
4	A student or staff person tests negative after symptoms	 May return to school 3 days after symptoms resolve School/classroom remain open 	Consider school community notification if prior awareness of testing

**WHO IS A CLOSE CONTACT? A close contact is defined as a person who is <6 feet from a case for >15 minutes. 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.

† WHAT IS A COHORT? A cohort is a stable group with fixed membership that stays together for all courses and activities (e.g., lunch, recess, etc.) and avoids contact with other persons or cohorts.