COVID-19 Symptom & Quarantine
INTERIM Decision Forest for K-12 Schools

The Decision Forest is based on guidance from the California Department of Public Health and local recommendations from Sacramento County Public Health. It is updated regularly to align with evolving guidance. Schools should ensure they are using the latest version and discard all previous versions.

The Decision Forest provides general guidance for common scenarios, but cannot account for every possible situation. Schools requiring technical assistance can contact the SCPH Schools Team for guidance at SCPHschools@saccounty.net.

TREE #1: STUDENT OR STAFF WITH SYMPTOMS

Please Note: If an individual tested positive for COVID-19 in the previous 90 days, please proceed to Tree #5.

Student or staff has any of the following NEW symptoms:
- 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

Exclude from school.

EITHER

Test* for COVID-19.

Receive an alternative named diagnosis from a health care provider.

If no test or alternative diagnosis, exclude for 10 days from symptom onset. May return on Day 11 if at least 24 hours have passed since fever and symptoms have improved significantly.

POSITIVE

NEGATIVE

ISOLATION:
Individual must isolate at home. Isolation can end 5 days after symptom onset if:
- at least 24 hours have passed since fever and symptoms have improved significantly
- individual tests negative (preferably antigen) with specimen collected on or after Day 5.
If unable to test, choose not to test, or positive test on or after Day 5, individual may return 10 days after symptom onset (Day 11).

May return to school if at least 24 hours have passed since fever and symptoms have improved significantly.

CONTACT TRACING:
Variable by school district based on CDPH Guidance for K-12 Schools.

CONTINUE TO TREE #2 FOR STUDENTS OR TREE #3 FOR STAFF

* PCR, rapid antigen, and OTC home testing are acceptable testing methods. Home test kits used to exit isolation/quarantine should be accompanied with an attestation declaring that the test specimen was obtained from the individual represented on the form, including the date the specimen was collected, and that the test was processed according to the instructions provided.

January 13, 2022
**TREE #2: STUDENT EXPOSURE AT SCHOOL**

- **Was the positive student within 6 feet of anyone for more than 15 minutes over a 24-hour period?**
  - **NO** → There are no close contacts who need to quarantine.
  - **YES** → Is the exposed student **fully vaccinated**? Boosters not required for students to be fully vaccinated at this time.
    - **YES** → **QUARANTINE**: Stay home for at least 5 days. Test on Day 5. Quarantine can end **after** Day 5 if no symptoms AND individual tests negative with specimen collected on or after Day 5. If unable to test or choose not to test, quarantine ends **after** Day 10. If test is positive, isolate.
    - **NO** → **May return to campus. Test between Day 3 and Day 5.**
"Exposure at School" is for school settings in which students are supervised by school staff, including indoor or outdoor school settings and school buses.

- **Were the case and the exposed student BOTH wearing masks during exposure?**
  - **NO** → **May return to campus. Test between Day 3 and Day 5.**
  - **YES** → **QUARANTINE**: Stay home for at least 5 days. Test on Day 5. Quarantine can end **after** Day 5 if no symptoms AND individual tests negative with specimen collected on or after Day 5. If unable to test or choose not to test, quarantine ends **after** Day 10. If test is positive, isolate.

- **Is the exposed person symptomatic?**
  - **NO** → **May return to school if at least 24 hours have passed since fever and symptoms have improved significantly.**
  - **YES** → **Test* for COVID-19.**
    - **NEGATIVE** → **May return to school if at least 24 hours have passed since fever and symptoms have improved significantly.**
    - **POSITIVE** → **ISOLATION**: Individual must **isolate** at home. Isolation can end **5 days** after symptom onset if: at least 24 hours have passed since fever and symptoms have improved significantly AND individual tests negative (preferrably antigen) with specimen collected on or after **Day 5**. If unable to test, choose not to test, or positive test on or after Day 5, individual may return 10 days after symptom onset (Day 11).
    - **MODIFIED QUARANTINE**: Student may continue in-person instruction. **Test* as soon as identified as contact and again on/after Day 5 from last exposure.** If test is positive, isolate.

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January 13, 2022
**TREE #3: STUDENT EXPOSURE OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL OR**
**STAFF EXPOSURE ON OR OFF CAMPUS**

- **Was the individual within 6 feet of someone with COVID-19 for more than 15 minutes over a 24-hour period?**
  - **The individual is not a close contact. No quarantine needed.**
  - **YES**

- **Is the exposed individual fully vaccinated?**
  - Boosters not required to be fully vaccinated at this time.
  - **NO**
    - **QUARANTINE:** Stay home for at least 5 days. Test on Day 5. Quarantine can end after Day 5 if no symptoms AND individual tests negative with specimen collected on or after Day 5. If unable to test or choose not to test, quarantine ends after Day 10. If test is positive, isolate.
  - **YES**
    - **Is the exposed individual symptomatic?**
      - **NO**
        - **Test** for COVID-19.
          - **NEGATIVE**
            - May return to campus. Test between Day 3 and Day 5.
          - **POSITIVE**
            - May return to school if at least 24 hours have passed since fever and symptoms have improved significantly.
      - **YES**
        - **ISOLATION:** Individual must isolate at home. Isolation can end 5 days after symptom onset if:
          - at least 24 hours have passed since fever and symptoms have improved significantly AND individual tests negative (preferably antigen) with specimen collected on or after Day 5.
          - If unable to test, choose not to test, or positive test on or after Day 5, individual may return 10 days after symptom onset (Day 11).

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TREE #4: STUDENT OR STAFF LIVES WITH SOMEONE WHO TESTS POSITIVE

Is the exposed individual fully vaccinated? Boosters not required to be fully vaccinated at this time.

YES
May return to campus. Test between Day 3 and Day 5.

NO
QUARANTINE:
Stay home for at least 5 days. Test immediately. If test is positive, isolate. If negative, continue quarantine and follow tree.

Antigen Test Index Case
(household member with COVID-19) Index case should take antigen COVID-19 test 5 days after previous test.

INDEX CASE: POSITIVE OR REFUSE TO TEST
Index case must complete 10 day isolation period.

INDEX CASE: NEGATIVE
Exposed individual tests for COVID-19 at Day 5 (same day as index case's negative test).

POSITIVE OR REFUSE TO TEST
Exposed individual tests for COVID-19 at Day 10 (at completion of index case's isolation period).

NEGATIVE
May return to campus after Day 5.

ISOLATION:
Individual must isolate at home. Isolation can end after Day 5 from their positive test/refusal to test if:
individual tests negative (preferably antigen) with specimen collected on or after Day 5 from their initial positive test/refusal to test.
If unable to test, choose not to test, or positive test on or after Day 5, isolation ends after Day 10.

INDEX CASE: NEGATIVE
Exposed individual tests for COVID-19 at Day 5 (same day as index case's negative test).

NEGATIVE
May return to campus after Day 5.

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January 13, 2022
TREE #5: PERSON WHO TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 IN PAST 90 DAYS

Student or staff who tested positive for COVID-19 **in last 90 days** has any of the following **NEW** symptoms:
- 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

**Exclude** from school.

**Previous diagnosis was within last 30 days.**
- **Do not** test for COVID-19.

**Previous diagnosis was 31-90 days ago.**
- **If no test or alternative diagnosis, exclude** for 10 days from symptom onset. May return on Day 11 if at least 24 hours have passed since fever and symptoms have improved significantly.
- **Antigen Test** for COVID-19. If negative, no confirmatory test needed. Do not use PCR.

**Receive an alternative named diagnosis** from a health care provider.

- **NEGATIVE**
  - May return to school if at least 24 hours have passed since fever and symptoms have improved significantly.
- **POSITIVE**
  - **ISOLATION:** Individual must **isolate** at home. Isolation can end **5 days** after symptom onset if:
    - at least 24 hours have passed since fever and symptoms have improved significantly
    - individual tests negative (preferably antigen) with specimen collected on or after **Day 5**.
  - If unable to test, choose not to test, or positive test on or after Day 5, individual may return **10 days** after symptom onset (Day 11).

**CONTACT TRACING:** Variable by school district based on CDPH Guidance for K-12 Schools.