



COVID-19 in Schools

Assessing COVID-19 Exposures in K-12 School Settings Without Universal Use of Masks

This chart can help guide quarantine decisions for COVID-19 exposures that occur in school settings.

Determine case's infectious period based on the date of onset of symptoms:

First date of infectious period
2 days prior to onset.

Date of onset of symptoms
(or COVID-19 test if asymptomatic)

Last date of infectious period
5 days after onset.

____ / ____ / ____

____ / ____ / ____

____ / ____ / ____

Was the COVID-19 case in school or a participant in school activities during infectious period?

Was anyone ≤ 6 feet* of the case for > 15 minutes during the infectious period?

YES | **NO**

No at school exposures need to be assessed. The case should self-isolate away from school until after the last day of the infectious period. Individuals exposed to the case outside of school may need to quarantine (e.g., household contacts).

YES

NO

Has the contact had a documented COVID-19 infection (positive PCR or antigen test) in the prior three months?

NO

YES

Contact does not need to quarantine as long as they have **NO** symptoms.

Is the contact up-to-date** with COVID-19 vaccine?

NO

YES

Contact should:

- Wear a mask indoors.
- May remain in the normal in-person classroom setting and participate in extracurricular and sport activities as long as they have no symptoms.
- Be tested 5-7 days after exposure. If they test positive they should isolate for at least 5 days from the date of the positive test.

Contact should: Quarantine away from school and extracurricular activities for:

- **10 full days if no they have NO symptoms;** or
- **5 days if they have NO symptoms and test negative (PCR or antigen) on or after day 5 of quarantine and can properly wear a well-fitting mask for 5 additional days.**

If a school has a modified quarantine "test to stay" program, persons may continue to attend school if they have no symptoms and receive repeated negative COVID-19 tests.

*In the K-12 indoor setting, students who are ≥ 3 feet away from an infected student do not need to quarantine if both students were consistently wearing masks. This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, other adults, or exposures outside of the classroom.

**Up-to-date includes children 5-17 years old who have completed their primary vaccine series ≥ 14 days prior to the exposure and adults ≥ 18 years old who have completed their primary mRNA (Pfizer/Moderna) vaccine series < 5 months prior, their J&J/Janssen vaccine < 2 months prior, or have received their booster.

January 10, 2022

