COVID-19 K-12 Decision Trees

Symptom and Isolation Tree

Does the person (vaccinated and unvaccinated) have one or more symptoms associated with COVID-19 OR is the person asymptomatic and COVID-positive?

Yes

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

For asymptomatic close contacts, use the close contact and quarantine tree on page 2.

No

Has the person been identified as a close contact (within 6 feet for a total of 15 minutes) with a person who has COVID-19?

Yes

Does the individual have a documented pre-existing chronic condition that accounts for the symptoms?

Yes

Results of COVID-19 Testing?

Negative or No Test Result

Negative or No Test Result

Positive Test Result

See “appropriate test type” on page 4.

Positive or No Test Result

Positive or No Test Result

Negative Molecular Test

Remain home until the symptoms are improving, and fever free for 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing medicine.

Return on or after Day 11 from onset of symptoms if symptoms have improved + 24 hours without fever and no use of fever-reducing medications. From Day 11 – 14, return to school/work under the additional requirements for quarantine on page 3.

Stay at home for at least 10 days after symptom onset, or the date a positive test sample was collected, whichever is earlier. Return on or after Day 11 with improving symptoms if fever free and no use of fever reducing medicines in the last 24 hours

Stay home until symptoms have improved according to existing school policy, typically 24 hours without fever and no use of fever-reducing medicine

Allow to return to class or work

No

Is the person fully vaccinated AND do they have a negative molecular test?

Yes

Return on or after Day 11 from onset of symptoms if symptoms have improved + 24 hours without fever and no use of fever-reducing medications. From Day 11 – 14, return to school/work under the additional requirements for quarantine on page 3.

No

Stay at home for at least 10 days after symptom onset, or the date a positive test sample was collected, whichever is earlier. Return on or after Day 11 with improving symptoms if fever free and no use of fever reducing medicines in the last 24 hours

From Day 11 – 14, return to school/work under the additional requirements for quarantine on page 3.
Is the person fully vaccinated OR have they recovered from COVID-19 within the last 90 days with evidence of lab-confirmed diagnosis?

**YES**
Allow to remain in school or work. Quarantine is not required. Recommend that the person test on Day 3, 4, or 5.

**NO**
Use the following decision trees for adults or students as appropriate.

### ADULTS
- Does the employee’s role require them to be near individuals who are immunosuppressed?
  - **NO**
    - Return on Day 15: Test recommended on or after Day 5
  - **YES**
    - Can the employee self-monitor for symptoms, distance at 6 feet, wear a mask, and sanitize hands at work through day 14?
      - **YES**
        - Return on Day 15: Test recommended on or after Day 5
      - **NO**
        - Return on Day 11: Test recommended on or after Day 5

### STUDENTS
1. Did the exposure occur in a school setting (any setting supervised by school employees)?
   - **YES**
   - Return on Day 15: Day 1 is the day after the last close contact with a person who is contagious. Testing is recommended on or after Day 5.
   - **NO**
2. Were both parties wearing masks during all contacts within 6 feet? If NO, go to question 4.
   - **YES**
   - Return on Day 8: with negative test on Day 6
   - **NO**
3. Can the student provide evidence of a negative COVID-19 test taken 2 times a week (each 3 days apart)?
   - **YES**
   - Return on Day 11: Test recommended on or after Day 5
   - **NO**
4. Can the student provide evidence of a negative COVID-19 test taken on day 6 or later?
   - **YES**
   - Return on Day 15: Day 1 is the day after the last close contact with a person who is contagious. Testing is recommended on or after Day 5.
   - **NO**

Antigen tests administered on-site may be used for asymptomatic testing when required for quarantine.

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This document reflects guidance from the California Department of Public Health and county public health orders.
### Addendum on Quarantine

#### Quarantine or isolation: What's the difference?
- Quarantine keeps someone who might have been exposed to the virus away from others.
- Isolation keeps someone who is infected with the virus away from others, even in their home.

#### Who needs to quarantine?
- People who have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 — excluding people who have had COVID-19 within the past three months or who are fully vaccinated.
- People who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past three months and recovered do not have to quarantine or get tested again as long as they do not develop new symptoms.
  - People who develop symptoms within three months of their first bout of COVID-19 should follow their doctor’s advice on testing.
- People who have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 are not required to quarantine if they have been fully vaccinated against the disease and show no symptoms.

#### What counts as close contact?
- Being within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period
- Providing care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19
- Having direct physical contact with the person (hugged or kissed them)
- Sharing eating or drinking utensils
- Being sneezed on, coughed on, or somehow getting respiratory droplets on you from someone with COVID-19

#### Additional Requirements for return to school or work before completing 14 days of quarantine:
- If these requirements cannot or will not be met, 14-day quarantine is required.
- The number of days required for quarantine is counted from the day after the person’s last close contact with a person who has COVID-19.
- People are contagious from 2 days before symptoms begin or positive test result, whichever is earlier, until 10 days after.
- If symptoms occur, the individual should immediately self-isolate and contact their health care provider or San Diego County Public Health Services and seek testing.

**STUDENTS**

- **Return on Day 15:** No additional requirements. Testing on or after Day 5 is recommended.
- **Return on Day 11:** May return if the individual is able to abide by the additional requirements described below.
- **Return on Day 8:** Provide evidence that a diagnostic specimen collected on or after Day 6 (from the date of last exposure) is negative.
- **Modified Quarantine (remain in school):** Must undergo twice weekly testing (each test at least 3 days apart) and not participate in any program or activity outside of the regular school day, on campus or in a community setting, through Day 10.

**ADULTS**

- **Return on Day 15:** No additional requirements.
- **Return on Day 11:** May return if the individual is able to abide by the additional requirements described below.

**Additional Requirements:** In addition, for return before Day 14, the employee must agree to self monitor for symptoms, maintain 6 feet of physical distancing at all times, and wear a face covering over their nose and mouth as required. Staff members who would be near others who have severe immunosuppressive disorder (e.g., bone marrow or solid organ transplant, chemotherapy) must quarantine for 14 days.

*NOTE:* Cal/OSHA’s emergency temporary standards restrict the use of the 7-day quarantine option to specific employment settings. School are not authorized to use the 7-day option.
Addendum on Test Types

Appropriate Test Types:

Molecular Tests
- Lab-based PCR
- Rapid molecular tests (PCR-like)

Antigen On-Site (or at home as part of a state pilot)
- If symptomatic, a negative antigen test requires molecular test (PCR, LAMP, NAAT) confirmation and individuals should isolate until test results are available.
- If asymptomatic, a positive test requires a confirmation with a molecular test (PCR, LAMP, NAAT) and individuals should isolate until confirmatory test results are available.

Onsite Rapid Tests
- When a point of care test (school administered antigen test or rapid molecular test like the Cue) is used for a person in quarantine who develops symptoms, the results must be confirmed with a laboratory-based PCR test.

Populations Tested:
- Staff or students with symptoms, regardless of vaccination status
- Unvaccinated students who are close contacts to remain in school for a modified quarantine as described in CDPH K-12 Guidance.