



TULARE COUNTY
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

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Be advised that recent CDC guidance and public health recommendations regarding fully vaccinated persons do not apply to California workplaces at this time. As employers in non-healthcare settings, schools still need to abide by the Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standards (ETS). Schools should review the ETS to ensure compliance with all applicable Cal/OSHA standards; failure to comply may result in a citation from Cal/OSHA.

Of note, the ETS specifies that the same preventive measures must be implemented for vaccinated employees as unvaccinated employees. The ETS also includes requirements on employee testing in exposed workplaces, which may overlap with schools' testing plans from the school guidance. Specific examples include:

- Quarantine is required for identified close-contact employees after an exposure regardless of vaccination status (10 days minimum, 14 days recommended).
- Employers must offer testing to close-contact employees after an exposure regardless of vaccination status.
- Continued use of face coverings, physical distancing, employee training, and outbreak training as outlined in the ETS regardless of vaccination status.
- Employers must offer testing to all employees in an exposed workplace (as defined in ETS) regardless of vaccination status.
- Employers must also follow minimum weekly testing for employees when in outbreak situations as outlined in the ETS.

Links to the Cal/OSHA ETS and a Cal/OSHA FAQ are included in the resources below.

Cal/OSHA. COVID-19 Prevention Emergency Temporary Standards:

<https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/coronavirus/ETS.html>

Cal/OSHA. COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standards, Frequently Asked Questions:

<https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/coronavirus/COVID19FAQs.html>

CDC. Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>

CDPH. COVID-19 and Reopening In-Person Instruction Framework & Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2020-2021 School Year

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/COVID19-K12-Schools-InPerson-Instruction.aspx>



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Quarantine of exposed persons and early detection of new infections remain important measures to prevent spread of COVID-19. CDC continues to recommend the 14-day quarantine as the most effective timeframe to prevent transmission, but has offered an alternate shortened quarantine option. CDPH has outlined this option for schools in its most recent guidance along with appropriately timed testing.

Testing and Quarantine of Close Contacts:

Testing is advised for all close contacts regardless of whether symptoms are present. Close contact is defined as within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes cumulatively within a 24-hour period. In some school situations, this may be difficult to determine so the entire cohort may be considered close contacts with quarantine recommended.

- Testing is recommended at symptom onset or at the end of quarantine if asymptomatic due to the potential for asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic transmission.
- CDPH school guidance advises testing asymptomatic between 5-7 days from last exposure and completing 10 days of quarantine if negative. Testing later in quarantine is preferred, but any testing days 5-10 is considered acceptable.
- A negative result does not shorten the quarantine; a positive result requires an additional 10 days of isolation from symptom onset date (or test date if asymptomatic). If testing is not done, a standard 14-day quarantine is preferred, but 10 days of quarantine is considered acceptable per CDPH school guidance. Persons should continue to monitor for symptoms for 14 days after exposure regardless and isolate/test if symptoms develop.
- Persons should follow all CDPH guidance on face coverings and social distancing.

Testing and Isolation of Symptomatic Persons / Persons Who Test Positive:

Testing is advised for anyone with symptoms of COVID-19, particularly in congregate settings where early identification is key in preventing transmission.

- Schools may request a clearance note documenting either a negative test result or that symptoms are due to an underlying chronic condition. If testing is not done or no documentation of chronic condition is provided, students/staff should isolate for 10 days from symptom onset per CDC guidance.
- A positive test result requires 10 days of isolation and may return once CDC criteria met: 10 days have passed since symptom onset date (or test date if asymptomatic), no fever for at least 24 hours, and symptomatic improvement. If negative, may return if no fever for at least 24 hours with symptomatic improvement.
- Retesting for clearance after a positive test is not recommended. Persons do not need to be included in surveillance testing nor quarantine if re-exposed within 3 months after initial infection if they remain asymptomatic. Persons with symptoms should seek care. After 3 months, persons should be re-enrolled in routine surveillance testing.
- Typically, persons who have tested positive may be vaccinated after they have recovered (i.e. CDC isolation criteria).



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Clarification on Contact Tracing and Quarantine for Cohorts and Stable Groups

Per current CDPH guidance: *It may be necessary to consider the entire class or members of the case's stable group exposed, as it can be challenging to determine who may have had contact with the case within 6 feet for at least 15 cumulative minutes in a 24-hour period. In some situations, case investigations may be able to determine individual members of a stable group are close contacts, and allow those who are not identified as close contacts to continue in-person instruction.*

This may be reasonable in older groups, but may be particularly difficult to determine in younger age children especially as the criteria is a cumulative 15 minutes within a 24-hour period. Persons who meet time and distance criteria are considered close contacts regardless of face covering use as per the current CDC definition.

At this time, entire cohorts and stable groups **3rd grade and under** should quarantine when a case is identified to best prevent further transmission of COVID-19. This includes the adult staff in the cohort or stable group. Quarantine of entire cohorts may also otherwise be necessary when unable to ascertain close contact in certain classroom situations or learning environments as deemed appropriate by school contact tracers or public health investigators. This may change with developing information including new virus variant transmissibility as well as local case rates.

CDC Update on Masking Fit Recommendations

School staff and educators should be advised of new CDC recommendations regarding effective masking to best protect against COVID-19. This includes information on mask material choice, fitting, and proper use in different situations. Please see CDC website for specific information:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/mask-fit-and-filtration.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/effective-masks.html>

CDC. *Options to Reduce Quarantine for Contacts of Persons with SARS-CoV-2 Infection Using Symptom Monitoring and Diagnostic Testing.* <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/more/scientific-brief-options-to-reduce-quarantine.html>

CDPH. *COVID-19 and Reopening In-Person Instruction Framework & Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2020-2021 School Year.*

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/COVID19-K12-Schools-InPerson-Instruction.aspx>