



# COVID-19 in Schools

If a student, teacher, or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 or thinks they may have COVID-19, follow this guidance to keep the community safe.

## WHAT TO DO

### Anyone who thinks they may have COVID-19 should stay away from school

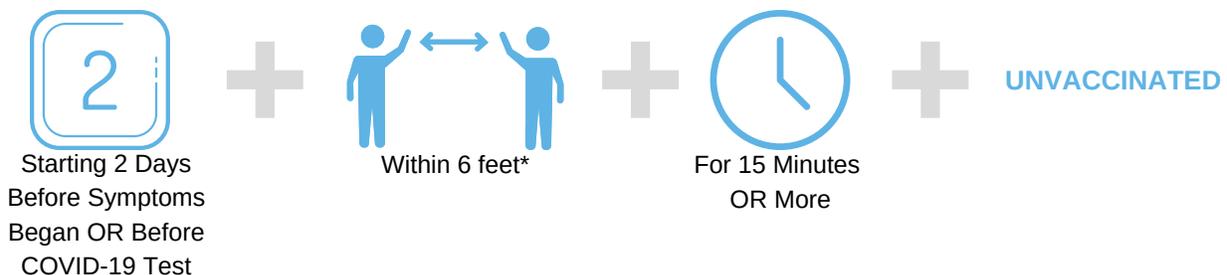
All students, teachers, and staff who think they may have COVID-19 should stay away from school even if they have been vaccinated for COVID-19. Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, chills, new cough, shortness of breath, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, and loss of taste or smell. Sick persons are advised to get a COVID-19 test and stay away from school while awaiting test results to prevent unknowingly exposing others.

### Anyone with a positive COVID-19 test should self-isolate for 10 days even if they are vaccinated

Anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 should notify the school immediately and self-isolate (stay away from school and others) for 10 full days starting from either the first day of the start of symptoms, or the day of testing if the person does not have symptoms. If the positive test is from an "at home" test kit that is not monitored by a trained health official, then the test might not be reported to the health department; the individual should continue to self-isolate and obtain an additional test from a medical provider or school recommended testing site to confirm the test result. If no additional test is received, the person should still self-isolate for 10 days.

## WHO SHOULD QUARANTINE

**Exposure at school:** If a student, teacher, or staff member tests positive, the school should be informed immediately so that close contacts can be identified and those who need to quarantine can be notified. This is critical to slowing the spread of COVID-19.



- Unvaccinated contacts should quarantine for **10 full days** if they have **NO symptoms**; quarantine may be shortened to **7 days** if they have **NO symptoms** and **test negative (PCR or antigen) on or after day 5 of quarantine**. Learn more about the [CDC Quarantine Guidance](#).
- Fully vaccinated contacts do not need to quarantine unless they are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, but are recommended to get a COVID-19 test 3-5 days after their exposure.

\*In the K-12 indoor setting, students who are  $\geq 3$  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.

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