

COVID-19 Decision Table for K-12 Schools

This table highlights recommendations and requirements for K-12 schools and childcare settings that reflect the [2024-2025 Public Health Guidance for TK-12 Schools and Child Care Settings to Support Safe In-Person Services and Mitigate the Spread of Communicable Diseases](#), and the [Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Non-Emergency Regulations](#). School districts, charter schools, and private schools have authority to exceed these recommendations and requirements.

| SCENARIO | STUDENTS | EMPLOYEES |
|---|---|--|
| <p>For Those Who Have COVID-19-Like Symptoms</p> | <p>Should consider wearing a mask when experiencing respiratory symptoms and should test for COVID-19.</p> <p>If testing positive, follow the directions for students who test positive.</p> <p>Follow the Considerations when a Child has Symptoms of Illness in Child Care or School to determine if the student should be sent home or stay at home.</p> | <p>Should consider wearing a mask when experiencing respiratory symptoms and should test for COVID-19.</p> <p>If testing positive, follow the directions for staff who test positive.</p> |
| <p>For Those Who Test Positive for COVID-19</p> | <p>Symptomatic Stay home when symptoms appear. May return to school when they are fever-free for 24 hours without using fever-reducing medication AND other non-fever symptoms are mild and improving.</p> <p>Asymptomatic Remain at school unless symptoms develop. Then follow the symptomatic guidance above.</p> <p>All students who test positive for COVID-19:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ When returning to school and other normal activities, should also take added precaution over the next 5 days including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Maintaining hygiene practices ▫ Wearing a mask ▫ Physical distancing ▫ Testing when the student will be around others indoors | <p>Symptomatic Stay home when symptoms appear. May return to work when they are fever-free for 24 hours without using fever reducing medication AND other non-fever symptoms are mild and improving.</p> <p>Asymptomatic Remain at work unless symptoms develop. Then follow the guidance above.</p> <p>All staff who test positive for COVID-19:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Must wear a mask at work indoors through day 10 after their symptom onset or positive test date. ■ When returning to work and other normal activities, should also take added precaution over the next 5 days including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Maintaining hygiene practices ▫ Physical distancing ▫ Testing when the staff will be around others indoors |
| <p>For Those Who Are Close Contacts*</p> | <p>May remain at school unless they develop symptoms. Then follow the symptomatic guidance above.</p> <p>All students who are close contacts should test for COVID-19 if they:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop symptoms 2. Are at higher risk for severe COVID-19 3. Are around others who are at higher risk for severe COVID-19. | <p>May remain at work unless they develop symptoms. Then follow the symptomatic guidance above.</p> <p>All staff who are close contacts should test for COVID-19 if they:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop symptoms 2. Are at higher risk for severe COVID-19 3. Are around others who are at higher risk for severe COVID-19. <p>In an Outbreak Setting (3 or more cases in 7 days)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Staff who are close contacts must wear a mask indoors or within six feet of others outdoors, until the site no longer qualifies as an outbreak setting. ■ Staff must test for COVID-19 within 3-5 days of the close contact or be treated as a positive COVID-19 case. |

*Close Contact is defined as: In indoor spaces of 400,000 or fewer cubic feet per floor (such as homes, clinic waiting rooms, airplanes, etc.), sharing the same indoor airspace for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (for example, three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes) during a confirmed case's infectious period.

NOTE: The confirmed case is only considered infectious to close contacts when they are symptomatic.