



# COVID-19

## Hawai`i State Department of Health

### Isolation and Quarantine Guidance for K-12 Schools

#### 5-day Isolation and Quarantine

##### Summary of Guidance Changes for K-12 Schools, updates as of July 15th, 2022

- Individual case investigation, close contact identification, and quarantine of in-school exposures is **not** recommended for routine in-school exposures.
- Indoor masking should be strongly encouraged when COVID-19 Community Levels are at medium or high.
- Schools should provide masks to students who do not have a mask at school but want to use one.
- Universal indoor masking or targeted indoor masking (e.g., in a class or grade level) is strongly recommended in specific situations (e.g., high absenteeism, cluster of cases, outbreak).

### ISOLATION

**Table 1. Isolation Protocol for all K-12 Settings.**

Isolation	Actions
<p>For students and staff who have tested positive for COVID-19 or who have COVID-19 symptoms, <u>regardless of vaccination status</u> should isolate for <b>5 days</b>.</p>	<p>Students and staff can return to school when <b>all</b> the following conditions are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 full days have passed since symptoms first appeared or, if asymptomatic, 5 days after the positive test was collected <b>and</b></li> <li>• 24 hours with no fever without use of fever-reducing medications; <b>and</b></li> <li>• Symptoms have improved; <b>also</b></li> <li>• Must wear a well-fitting mask around others indoors from day 6 to day 10 after completing home isolation.</li> </ul> <p>*Individuals unable or unwilling to wear a mask and have tested positive should remain in isolation for 10 days, regardless of vaccination status.</p>
<p><b><u>Additional Considerations for Participation in High Risk Extracurriculars:</u></b> Participation in extracurricular activities that are high-risk for disease transmission and do not allow for mask usage (e.g., indoor or close-contact sports, singing, playing wind instruments, etc.).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individuals who have tested positive, regardless of vaccination status, should remain out of high-risk extracurricular activities until 10-days have passed since symptom onset or test collection date, even if asymptomatic.</li> </ul>

## **QUARANTINE**

The quarantine of in-school exposures is no longer recommended for K-12 schools. See [Comprehensive K-12 School Guidance](#) for more information and guidance on notifying potentially exposed individuals in schools and what to do if a school is experiencing a cluster of cases or outbreak. Active clusters or outbreaks may necessitate a temporary return to targeted case investigation, close contact identification, and quarantine of in-school exposures to prevent ongoing transmission.

Quarantine is **not required** for in-school exposures. Individuals with in-school exposure may remain in school if asymptomatic and should:

- Get tested, if possible, at least 5 days after potential exposure to a person with COVID-19, even if not having symptoms.
- If symptoms develop, immediately **self-isolate** and **get tested**.
- Wear a well-fitting mask around others indoors for 10 days.

**Table 2. Quarantine protocol for individuals who are a household or other non-school related close contact of a person who has COVID-19.**

Quarantine for K-12 Schools	Actions
<p><b>Who needs to quarantine?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People who are NOT <a href="#">up to date</a> on all COVID-19 vaccinations for their age group.</li> </ul>	<p>Individuals should <b>stay home for 5 days</b> after last contact with the person with COVID-19*, AND:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Get tested, if possible, at least 5 days after last contact with the person with COVID-19, even if not having symptoms.</li> <li>• If symptoms develop, immediately <b>self-isolate</b> and <b>get tested</b>.</li> <li>• Schools may consider requiring a negative test on or after day 5 prior to return to school as an additional mitigation measure to reduce transmission of COVID-19 on school campuses. Before implementing a required test to return policy, factors impacting feasibility of required testing should be weighed, including equitable access to and availability of testing and schools’ capacity to monitor and track results.</li> <li>• Wear a well-fitting mask around others indoors from day 6 to day 10 after completing home quarantine .<sup>1</sup></li> </ul> <p>*Individuals who have ongoing close contact with a person with COVID-19 because they live in the same house <b>must</b> stay home in quarantine for 5 days <b>after</b> the person with COVID-19 is released from isolation (e.g., day 11).</p>

<p><b><u>Who does NOT need to quarantine?</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People who are <a href="#">up to date</a> on all recommended COVID-19 vaccinations for their age group.</li> <li>• People who have recovered from COVID-19 in the last 90 days</li> </ul>	<p>Individuals should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Get tested, if possible, at least 5 days after last contact with the person with COVID-19, even if not having symptoms.</li> <li>• If symptoms develop, immediately <b>self-isolate</b> and <b>get tested</b>; and</li> <li>• Wear a well-fitting mask around others indoors for 10 days following exposure.</li> </ul>
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<sup>1</sup> If individuals are unable or unwilling to wear a mask and are a household or non-school related close contact of a person with COVID-19, they should remain in quarantine for 10 days if they are not up to date on all recommended COVID-19 vaccinations for their age group.

**APPENDIX:**

<p><b>Table A1.</b> Return to school protocol for individuals with symptoms that have low clinical suspicion for COVID-19 and no known exposure.</p>	
<p><b>Symptoms and No Known Exposure</b></p>	<p><b>Actions</b></p>
<p>Illness with low clinical suspicion for COVID-19 or past medical history of other etiology (e.g., allergy, asthma)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Get tested</b> for COVID-19: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ If positive, follow <a href="#">Table 1</a> above.</li> <li>○ If negative, see below for return to school.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Provider to use clinical judgement on a case-by-case basis</li> </ul> <p><b>Individuals may return to school once:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Symptoms have improved; <b>and</b></li> <li>• No fever for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications</li> </ul>

**Close Contacts:**

- A **close contact** is defined as within **6 feet** of a person with COVID-19 infection for a combined total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (regardless of mask use).

**Close Contacts in the School Setting:**

- An **adult close contact** is defined as within 6 feet of a person with COVID-19 infection for 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (regardless of mask use).
- A **student close contact in a K-12 indoor classroom**, where everyone is wearing a mask correctly and consistently, is defined as within **3 feet** of a person with COVID-19 infection for 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.
- In **cafeterias or indoor rooms** (e.g., breakroom, classroom) where people were eating and drinking or **not** wearing masks correctly and consistently, a close contact is any adult or student who was within 6 feet of a person with COVID-19 infection for 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.

**Note:** The Department of Health does not provide isolation “clearance” letters. Schools should **not** require a clinician’s note to return to school if the person has completed 5 days of **isolation** and meets the conditions above. Schools do **not** need to require a negative COVID-19 test if the person has completed 5 days of isolation and meets the conditions above.