

Reporting and Responding to Confirmed Positive COVID-19 Case(s) at K-12 Schools

Per the [CDPH Reopening Framework](#), when there is a confirmed positive COVID-19 case among students or staff the following actions must take place:



1. Notify the local public health department:

- Please refer to the [COVID-19 Communication for Schools with County San Diego Epidemiology Branch](#) for directions regarding:
 - Reporting a student or staff lab-confirmed (or diagnosed) COVID-19 Positive Case
 - COVID-19 Epidemiology Consultation
- Click here to [Report the Case Online](#)
- Please note that after a case is reported to the County of San Diego, the Epidemiology Branch will follow up with the school if needed. If a follow up is needed, the Epidemiology Branch may provide the school with tailored recommendations or additional instructions. The below list is the minimum required steps all schools must follow per the [CDPH Reopening Framework](#) regardless of a follow-up from the Epidemiology Branch.



2. Isolate case and exclude from school for at least 10 days from symptom onset or test date:

- See [Home Isolation Instructions](#) for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).
- Please refer to the [COVID-19 Symptom Decision Tree](#) for additional guidance.
- If the family needs support to isolate or quarantine safely please refer them to the [Temporary Lodging Program](#) (scroll to the temporary lodging program fact sheets).



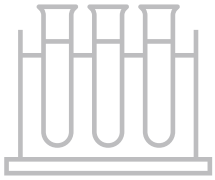
3. Identify close contacts (+), quarantine & exclude exposed contacts (likely entire cohort (++) for 14 days after the last date the case was present at school while infectious:

- If needed, see the 'COVID-19 Epidemiology Consultation' directions from the [COVID-19 Communication for Schools with County San Diego Epidemiology Branch](#)
- See [Quarantine Guidance](#) for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).
- (+) A close contact is defined as a person who is <6 feet from a case for >15 minutes. In some school situations, it may be difficult to determine whether individuals have met this criterion and an entire cohort, classroom, or other group may need to be considered exposed, particularly if people have spent time together indoors.
- (++) A cohort is a stable group with fixed membership that stays together for all courses and activities (e.g., lunch, recess, etc.) and avoids contact with other persons or cohorts.

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4. Recommend testing of close contacts, prioritize symptomatic contacts (testing will NOT shorten 14-day quarantine)

- **Staff testing**
 - **School personnel should contact their school or school district for information on receiving a test.** Learn more about the school staff only testing sites [here](#).
 - All school staff-only sites will be available without an appointment to maximize availability.
 - School employees may also be tested at any of the county's [public testing sites](#).
- **Student testing**
 - **It is always recommended parents first contact their child's pediatrician for testing advice.**
 - Children ages 6 months and up can be tested at all [county coordinated sites](#).
 - Call 2-1-1 to find and schedule a test.
 - Most youth and their caregivers can receive testing through the [COVID-19 Collaborative for Children](#) in partnership with Rady Children's Hospital. Contact your Rady pediatrician or e-mail covidcollaborative@rchsd.org for more information.
 - Youth and caregivers covered by Kaiser Permanente should consult with their pediatrician or physician provider directly, or through www.kp.org.



5. Disinfection and cleaning of classroom and primary spaces where case spent significant time:

- See [COVID-19 Industry Guidance for Schools and School-Based Programs](#)
 - "Intensify Cleaning, Disinfection, and Ventilation" pg. 9 -11
- CDC: [Cleaning, Disinfection, and Hand Hygiene in Schools – a Toolkit for School Administrators](#)



6. School remains open depending on number of cases:

- [CDPH Reopening Framework](#) describes the scenarios for when a school would remain open or would close and will help you understand who to contact and help with the decision-making regarding excluding cohorts (close contacts) from campus:
 - "Individual school closure is recommended based on the number of cases, the percentage of the teacher/students/staff that are positive for COVID-19 and following consultation with the Local Health Officer. Individual school closure may be appropriate when there are multiple cases in multiple cohorts at a school or when at least 5 percent of the total number of teachers/student/staff are cases within a 14-day period, depending on the size and physical layout of the school. The Local Health Officer may also determine school closure is warranted for other reasons, including results from public health investigation or other local epidemiological data."
- If needed, see the 'COVID-19 Epidemiology Consultation' directions from the [COVID-19 Communication for Schools with County San Diego Epidemiology Branch](#)



7. Notify school community of a known case:

- See [sample communication materials from SDCOE](#) (Parent Communication Materials).