



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 5 days.</p>	<p>Students and staff can return to school when all the following conditions are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 full days have passed since symptoms first appeared or, if asymptomatic, 5 days after the positive test was collected and • 24 hours with no fever without use of fever-reducing medications; and • Symptoms have improved; also • Must wear a well-fitting mask around others indoors from day 6 to day 10 after completing home isolation. <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><u>Additional Considerations for Participation in High Risk Extracurriculars:</u> 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"> • 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.

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><u>Who needs to quarantine?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People who are NOT up to date on all COVID-19 vaccinations for their age group. 	<p>Individuals should stay home for 5 days after last contact with the person with COVID-19*, AND:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get tested, if possible, at least 5 days after last contact with the person with COVID-19, even if not having symptoms. • If symptoms develop, immediately self-isolate and get tested. • 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. • Wear a well-fitting mask around others indoors from day 6 to day 10 after completing home quarantine .¹ <p>*Individuals who have ongoing close contact with a person with COVID-19 because they live in the same house must stay home in quarantine for 5 days after the person with COVID-19 is released from isolation (e.g., day 11).</p>

<p><u>Who does NOT need to quarantine?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People who are up to date on all recommended COVID-19 vaccinations for their age group. • People who have recovered from COVID-19 in the last 90 days 	<p>Individuals should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get tested, if possible, at least 5 days after last contact with the person with COVID-19, even if not having symptoms. • If symptoms develop, immediately self-isolate and get tested; and • Wear a well-fitting mask around others indoors for 10 days following exposure.
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¹ 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>Table A1. Return to school protocol for individuals with symptoms that have low clinical suspicion for COVID-19 and no known exposure.</p>	
<p>Symptoms and No Known Exposure</p>	<p>Actions</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"> • Get tested for COVID-19: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If positive, follow Table 1 above. ○ If negative, see below for return to school. • Provider to use clinical judgement on a case-by-case basis <p>Individuals may return to school once:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Symptoms have improved; and • No fever for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications

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.