

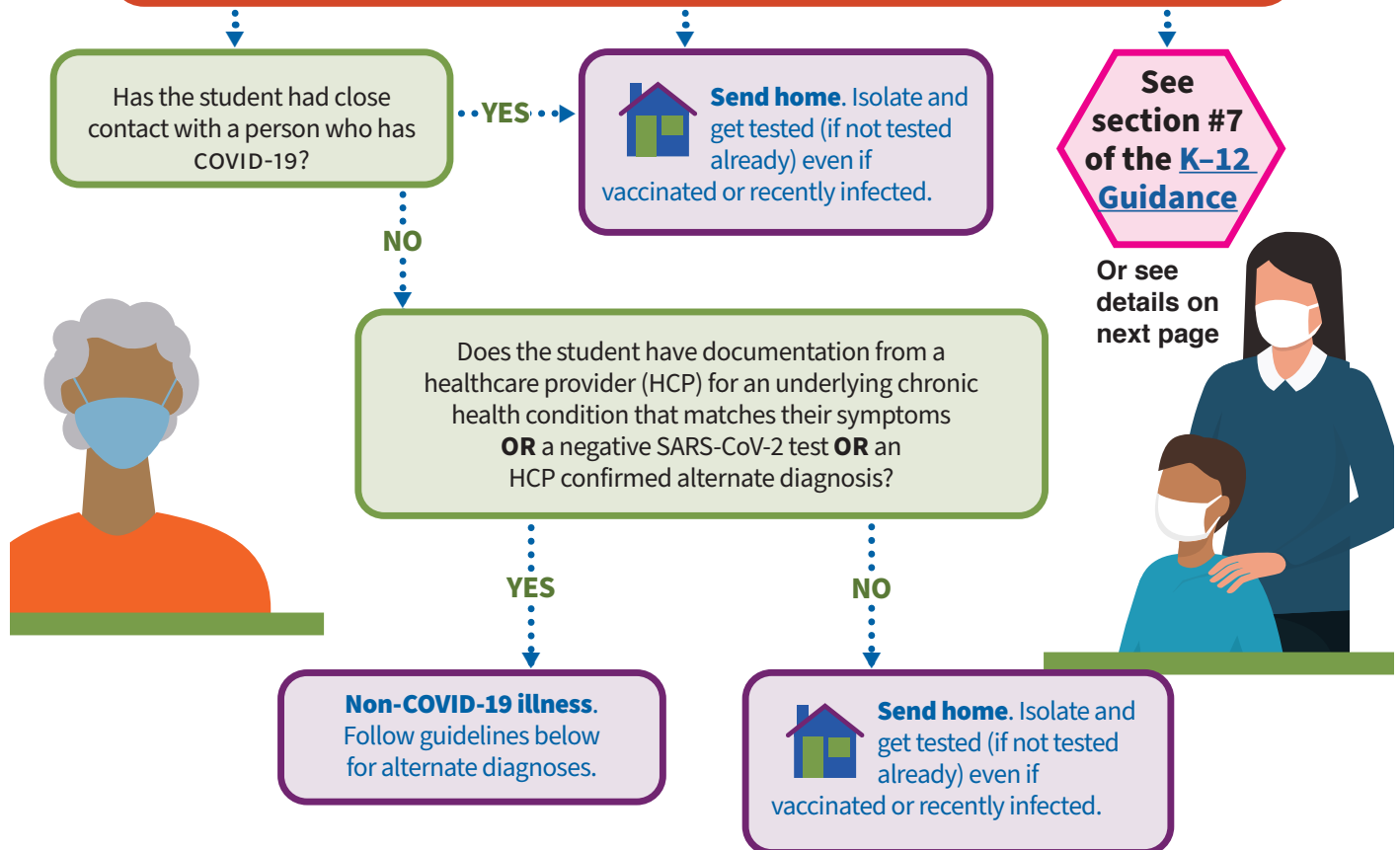
## Managing confirmed or suspected COVID-19 at K-12 schools

### What to do if a student has:

**COVID-19 symptoms**

**Confirmed COVID-19 (positive test)**

**Close contact with a COVID-19 case**



**Positive or no test:** Stay home for at least 5 days after symptoms start (or after positive test if no symptoms). Isolation can end after day 5 **IF** fever-free with no (or resolving) symptoms **AND** a test (antigen preferred) on day 5 or later is negative. If no test or a positive test on day 5 or later, or symptoms not resolving, isolate through day 10, continuing until fever-free.

**Negative test or alternate diagnosis** (with no previous positive test): May return to in-person instruction if fever-free (no fever for previous 24 hours, without using fever-reducing medication) **AND** other symptoms improving.

For more detailed information and guidelines, see [CDPH Schools Guidance](#) and [CDPH Isolation & Quarantine Guidance](#).

Staff and employers are subject to Cal/OSHA [COVID-19 ETS](#) or [Aerosol Transmissible Diseases](#) standard and should review those requirements.



[Visit the interactive version of this document](#)

## Exposure In School Setting (includes on campus, on the bus, during sports/extracurricular activities)

### Schools should notify students who were exposed to someone having COVID-19 during their period of infectiousness.

- Notifications should be provided to ALL students considered exposed regardless of vaccine status or prior history of COVID-19 infection.

### Notification should occur to 'groups' of exposed students (e.g. classmates, teammates, cohorts, etc.) and may include:

- Date(s) of exposure
- Student may remain in school and participate in all activities unless they develop symptoms or test positive for COVID-19
- It is recommended that your student wear a mask, especially for the next 10 days
- It is recommended that your student be tested within 3-5 days after the last date that the individual with COVID-19 was in school
- If your student develops symptoms of COVID-19 or tests positive for COVID-19, please ensure they isolate at home immediately

## Exposure Outside the School Setting

- **Student may remain in school and participate in all activities unless they develop symptoms or test positive for COVID-19**
- **It is recommended that your student be tested within 3-5 days after the last date of exposure to the infected individual unless they have had COVID-19 within the last 90 days**
- **It is recommended that your student wear a mask around others for the next 10 days following the date of last exposure**
- **If exposed and has had COVID-19 within the last 90 days, does not need to test but should monitor for symptoms**
- **If exposed and have had COVID-19 within the 90 days and symptomatic, should test with an antigen test**

### Definitions:

- **Exposure:** Student spent more than a cumulative total of 15 minutes (within a 24-hour time period) in a shared indoor airspace (e.g., classroom) with someone with COVID-19 during their period of infectiousness.
- **Primary Series of COVID-19 Vaccines:** The initial dose(s) of a COVID-19 vaccine. For Pfizer and Moderna mRNA vaccines, the primary series is two vaccine doses. For the Johnson & Johnson (J&J) COVID-19 vaccine, the primary series is a single vaccine dose.
- **COVID-19 Test:** Antigen tests, nucleic acid amplification tests (PCR or NAA), or LAMP are acceptable, but **antigen testing is preferred to end isolation**. Home/over-the-counter tests are acceptable. Exposed students who had COVID-19 within the last 90 days do not need to be tested after exposure but should monitor for symptoms. If symptoms develop, they should isolate and get tested with an antigen test even if they've had COVID-19 previously.
- **Resources for COVID Testing:**
  - <https://occcovid19.ochealthinfo.com/covid-19-testing>
  - <https://health.choc.org/guide/covid-19/#test>



*This care pathway was designed to assist school personnel and it not intended to replace the clinician's judgement or establish a protocol for all patients with a particular condition.*

*Diagnosis and treatment should be under the close supervision of a qualified health care provider, including school nurses.*

*This guidance is based on current evidence and best data at the time of publication. Updates are provided to reflect changes in knowledge about the impact of the disease on children and adolescents (04.08.2022).*

*For more detailed guidance, see the California Department of Public Health:  
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/>*