



## COVID-19 SCHOOL GUIDANCE FOR STAFF

With COVID cases still present in our community, the KDHE and CDC are recommending a sustainable approach to mitigation while providing students the opportunity to continue to participate academically to the greatest extent possible. This document is based upon guidance from the CDC and KDHE for the 2023-2024 school year.

### CHOOSE AN OPTION BELOW

**I TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID (PAGE 2)**

**I HAVE COVID-19 SYMPTOMS (PAGE 3)**

**I HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO COVID BY  
SOMEONE I LIVE WITH (PAGE 4)**

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SOMEONE I DO NOT LIVE WITH (PAGE 5)**

**DEFINITIONS (PAGE 6)**

## I TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID (ISOLATION REQUIREMENTS).

Regardless of vaccination status:

Stay home for 5 days from symptoms onset (Day 0) or positive test (if asymptomatic):

Return on or after Day 6 if:

- Fever free for 24 hours without the aid of medication
- Symptom free, or symptoms have improved
- Able and willing to wear a well-fitted mask at work on Days 6-10
- Able to participate in class activity

If unable to mask, stay home 10 days from onset of symptoms or positive test (Day 0), if fever free for 24 hours, symptoms resolving, and able to participate in class activity, return on Day 11 (no mask required).

CDC's [Isolation and Quarantine Calculator](#) is a tool to help determine how long individuals should isolate, quarantine, or take steps to prevent spreading COVID.

**\*LPS highly encourages all positive cases to notify their close contacts of potential COVID exposure.**

## I THINK I HAVE COVID-19.

### Return Options:

- Inform school nurse of negative PCR or antigen test\* (home test are accepted), **OR**
- Physician note stating alternative diagnosis provided to the school nurse, **OR**
- If you do not want to take a COVID test, stay home for 5 days from the onset of symptoms (Day 0), return Day 6 if fever free for 24 hours, symptoms improving, and able to participate in class activities. Individual is required to wear a well-fitted mask on Days 6-10.
  - If unable to wear a mask, stay home 10 days from onset of symptoms (Day 0), return on Day 11 if fever free for 24 hours, symptoms improving, and able to participate in class activity.

\*If the COVID test is negative but you are still exhibiting symptoms (fever, diarrhea, vomiting, etc) stay at home for 24 hours after symptoms resolve.

If you become symptomatic while at school, USD 497 will provide a rapid antigen test to the extent possible with written consent.

Covid tests can also be obtained through **community sites** or Project Act by visiting **<https://accesscovidtests.org/>**

## I HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO COVID BY SOMEONE I LIVE WITH\*.

### INDIVIDUALS ABLE AND WILLING TO WEAR A MASK:

- Return to work, **AND**
- Wear a well-fitting mask during ongoing exposure (positive case's Days 0-5) **and** 10 days after last exposure (Days 6-15)
- Take a PCR or antigen COVID test\*\* 5 days after last exposure (Day 10)
  - If symptoms develop, stay home and take a PCR or antigen COVID test immediately. If test is negative and symptoms are still present, please contact your health care provider.

### INDIVIDUALS UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO WEAR A MASK:

- Return to work, **AND**
- Take a PCR or antigen COVID test\* upon notification of exposure and every other school day through day 7 after last exposure (positive case's Day 12).
  - If symptoms develop, stay home and take a PCR or antigen COVID test immediately. If test is negative and symptoms are still present, please contact your health care provider.

\*Household contact: A household contact is an individual who shares any living spaces with a case. This includes bedrooms, bathrooms, living rooms, kitchens, etc. If the contact can separate from the case within the home, then they are no longer considered exposed and can follow the [guidance for a non-household contact](#). To separate, the case 1) should never be in the same room as household members 2) should not share plates, cups, dishes, or phones with household members 3) should have their own bathroom and bedroom.

\*\*Accepted COVID tests include tests administered at [community testing sites](#)/doctor offices and at home tests. Tests can also be obtained from [Project ACT](#) or your school's health clinic, if needed.

CDC's [Isolation and Quarantine Calculator](#) is a tool to help determine how long individuals should isolate, quarantine, or take steps to prevent spreading COVID.

School districts do not have independent authority to contact trace, only assist public health departments in doing so. In regards to quarantine processes, LPS will not independently provide notification of exposure to positive cases or require anyone to stay home from school unless they have a positive COVID test. (This is subject to change at any time.)

## I HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO COVID BY SOMEONE I DO NOT LIVE WITH.

### INDIVIDUALS ABLE AND WILLING TO WEAR A MASK:

- Return to work, **AND**
- Wear a well-fitting mask for 10 days after exposure.
- Take a PCR or antigen COVID test\* on Day 5 following your initial exposure.
  - If symptoms develop stay home and take a PCR or antigen COVID test immediately. If test is negative and symptoms are still present, please contact your health care provider.

### INDIVIDUALS UNWILLING OR UNABLE TO WEAR A MASK:

- Return to work, **AND**
- Take a PCR or antigen COVID test\* upon notification of exposure and then every other school day for 7 days after initial exposure.
  - If symptoms develop stay home and take a PCR or antigen COVID test immediately. If test is negative and symptoms are still present, please contact your health care provider.

\*Accepted COVID tests include tests administered at **community testing sites**/doctor offices and at home tests. Tests can also be obtained from **Project ACT** or your school's health clinic, if needed.

CDC's [Isolation and Quarantine Calculator](#) is a tool to help determine how long individuals should isolate, quarantine, or take steps to prevent spreading COVID.

School districts do not have independent authority to contact trace, only assist public health departments in doing so. In regards to quarantine processes, LPS will not independently provide notification of exposure to positive cases or require anyone to stay home from school unless they have a positive COVID test. (This is subject to change at any time.)

## DEFINITIONS

**Accepted COVID-19 Tests:** PCR and antigens tests are available through community sites, or healthcare providers. PCR and antigen tests performed by a healthcare entity or community site will be accepted as proof of COVID-19 or absence of COVID-19. Over the Counter (at-home) tests will be accepted as documentation of absence of COVID-19.

**Positive COVID Case:** Positive PCR or rapid antigen. Home antigen tests are not yet accepted as proof of COVID for the purpose of awarding 90-day immunity credit.

**Close Contact:** LDCPH determines close contacts based on situation risk of transmission including, but not limited to, unmasked individuals within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more of an unmasked positive case starting 48 hours prior to onset of symptoms/test.

- School personnel, including nurses, will not be involved in close contact identification.
- Positive cases are encouraged to notify any close contacts from 48 hours prior to onset of symptoms or positive test through Day 10.
- Individuals who report close contacts or self-report their exposure will be provided school guidance to assist in limiting the spread in the school community. Exposed individuals regardless of vaccination status are recommended to mask for 10 days from last exposure and distance 6 feet when not masking.

**Infectious Period:** (of the sick individual): The CDC has shortened the isolation period to 5 days citing science demonstrating that the majority of COVID-19 transmission occurs early in the course of the illness, generally in the 1-2 days prior to onset of symptoms (Day 0) through the 2-3 days after. Masking for Days 6-10 is required by the district and mask exemptions will not be honored.

**Incubation Period:** (of exposed individuals): The incubation period for COVID-19 remains 14 days from the day of exposure (Day 0).

**Up-to-Date Vaccination Status:** an individual is considered fully vaccinated if they are a minimum of two weeks beyond their completion of an appropriately spaced primary vaccine series AND have received age-appropriate booster doses within the recommended time frame. For example:

**Pfizer (age 6 months and older)\*:**

- Completed a primary series of two doses spaced a minimum of 21 days apart within the last 5 months OR
- Completed a primary series of two doses spaced a minimum of 21 days apart more than 5 months ago and has received a booster dose (age 5 and older)

**Moderna (age 6 months and older)\*:**

- Completed a primary series of two doses spaced a minimum of 28 days apart within the last 5 months OR
- Completed a primary series of two doses spaced a minimum of 28 days apart more than 5 months ago and has received a booster dose (age 18 and older)

**Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) (age 18 and older)\*:**

- Completed a primary series of one dose within the last 2 months OR
- Completed a primary series of one dose more than 2 months ago and has received a booster dose (age 18 and older)

**Novavax (age 12 and older):**

- Completed a primary series of two doses spaced a minimum of 21 days apart

\*Visit **CDC COVID Vaccine Guidelines** for individuals considered immunocompromised, under 5, or over 50 years old.