



COVID-19 SCHOOL GUIDANCE FOR STAFF AND STUDENTS

With community incidence rates exceeding all previous levels in this pandemic, LDCPH is recommending a sustainable approach to mitigation and contact tracing while providing students the opportunity to continue to participate academically to the greatest extent possible. This document is based upon guidance from LDCPH for the second semester 2021-2022 and is subject to change.

CHOOSE AN OPTION BELOW

[I TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID \(PAGE 2\)](#)

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I TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 (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 with a negative COVID-19 test (PCR or antigen, no home test will be accepted) if

- Fever free for 24 hours without the aid of medication
- Symptom free, or symptoms have improved
- Required to wear a well-fitted mask at school
- Able to participate in class activity

If unable to mask, or test is positive on or after Day 6, stay home 10 days from onset of symptoms (Day 0), if fever free for 24 hours, symptoms resolving, and able to participate in class activity, return on Day 11.

I HAVE COVID-19 SYMPTOMS.

Return Options:

- Documentation of negative PCR or antigen test provided to the school nurse (no home test will be accepted), OR
- Physician note stating alternative diagnosis provided to the school nurse, OR
- Stay home for 5 days from the onset of symptoms (Day 0), return Day 6 if fever free for 24 hours, symptoms improving, able to participate in class activities, and required to wear a well-fitted mask
- 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 you become symptomatic while at school, USD 497 will provide a rapid antigen test to the extent possible with written parental consent. For instructions on how to access the consent form in PowerSchool please visit <https://www.usd497.org/Page/14211>.

I AM FULLY VACCINATED AND HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO COVID.

ASYMPTOMATIC, Fully Vaccinated/Natural Immunity (See definition):

- Remain in school.
- Mask while in school for 10 days from last exposure (Wearing a mask is required in all LPS schools). If unable to wear a mask, follow [page 5 Option 1 instructions](#).
- Distance 6 feet from others when not masking; e.g. eating etc.
- PCR test on Day 5 from exposure is recommended. If positive, follow steps for [positive COVID result](#).

SYMPTOMATIC, Fully Vaccinated/Natural Immunity (See definition):

- Stay home, schedule a PCR or antigen COVID test to determine if symptoms are due to COVID-19. Provide negative results to school nurse for return to school. Influenza testing is also recommended.
- If result is positive, remain home until qualified to return from isolation ([see Isolation Requirements, page 2](#)) and provide documentation to the school nurse for credit for 90-day immunity, if desired.
- If result is negative, provide documentation to school nurse, return to school. PCR test on Day 5 from date of last exposure is recommended.

Household Contacts, Fully Vaccinated/Natural Immunity (See definition):

- If you are not experiencing any symptoms, follow asymptomatic criteria listed above.
- If you are experiencing symptoms, follow symptomatic criteria listed above.
- If unable to wear a mask, complete a 5-Day home quarantine after the household contact has come out of isolation. Continue to monitor for COVID-19 symptoms. Test on or after Day 5 with a PCR or antigen COVID test.

There are no public health authorities who are contact tracing now. School districts do not have independent authority to contact trace, only assist public health departments in doing so. In regards to quarantine processes, we are not allowed by law to 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 AM NOT FULLY VACCINATED AND HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO COVID.

ASYMPTOMATIC, not fully vaccinated:

Option 1 (No testing or unable to wear a mask):

- Stay home for 10 days after the date of last exposure (Day 0; See below if a household contact).
- Return on Day 11.

Option 2 (Test on Day 5 Only):

- Stay home for 5 days after the date of exposure (Day 0; See below for household contacts).
- PCR or antigen COVID test on Day 5, return Day 6 with documentation of negative test.
- Wear a mask at school/activities/work.
- Distance 6 feet from others when not masking; e.g., eating, etc.

SYMPTOMATIC, not fully vaccinated:

- Stay home, schedule a PCR or antigen COVID test to determine if symptoms are due to COVID-19. Provide negative results to the school nurse. Influenza testing is also recommended.
- If result is positive, remain home until qualified to return from isolation ([See Isolation Requirements, page 2](#)) and provide documentation to the school nurse for credit for 90-day immunity, if desired.
- If result is negative stay home for 5 days, then take a PCR or antigen COVID test on Day 5, return Day 6 with documentation of negative test, wear a mask at school and distance 6 feet from others when not masking; e.g. eating etc.
- If unable to wear a mask, may return to school on Day 11

Household Contacts:

- Complete a 5-Day home quarantine after the household contact has come out of isolation. Continue to monitor for COVID-19 symptoms. Test on or after Day 5 with a PCR or antigen COVID test.
- If negative, can return to school on Day 6, wear a mask and distance 6 feet from others when not masking; e.g., eating, etc.
- If positive, complete isolation ([see Isolation Requirements, page 2](#)).

There are no public health authorities who are contact tracing now. School districts do not have independent authority to contact trace, only assist public health departments in doing so. In regards to quarantine processes, we are not allowed by law to 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. Home tests are not accepted.

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.

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 the full 10 days post-exposure is required by the district.

Incubation Period: (of exposed individuals): The incubation period for COVID-19 remains 14 days from the day of exposure (Day 0). Return options include masking and 6 feet distance when unable to mask. Mask exemptions are not honored if choosing to participate in a 5 Day-isolation period.

Natural Immunity: Documented history of positive COVID-19 test (PCR or Antigen) within the last 90 days. (Home antigen tests not accepted.)

Full 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 5 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 18 and older)

Moderna:

- 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, only):

- 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)