



Imperial County COVID-19 Decision Trees for K-12 Schools

ISOLATION TREE

CONFIRMED COVID-19 POSITIVE

If the person (vaccinated and unvaccinated) is COVID-19 positive:

If the person has a POSITIVE TEST result, he/she stays at home for at least 10 days from the date a positive test sample was collected. Return on or after Day 11 with improving symptoms, if fever free and no use of fever reducing medications in the last 24 hours.

COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

If the person (vaccinated and unvaccinated) has COVID-19 like symptoms:

Persons with COVID-19 who have symptoms and were instructed to care for themselves at home may discontinue self-isolation under the following conditions:

- At least 10 days have passed since symptom onset; **AND**
- At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; **AND**
- Other symptoms have improved.

IF the individual has documentation from a healthcare provider for an underlying chronic health condition that matches their symptoms **OR** a negative COVID-19 test **OR** a healthcare provider confirmed alternate diagnosis, then: the person may return with other improving symptoms, if fever free and no use of fever reducing medications in the last 24 hours. IF there is NO documentation as indicated above, person isolates and gets tested, even if fully vaccinated or previously infected.

PLEASE NOTE:

- Clearance (or negative) testing is not required to release a person from isolation.
- If the person is a close contact. Please see the **Asymptomatic Close Contact Quarantine Tree** on page 2.
- When a school becomes aware of a positive case, the district/school liaison must report it immediately to the Imperial County Public Health Department.
- These decision trees are subject to change. It is also not all-inclusive. Please access the latest guidance documents here:
 - [2021-2022 K-12 Schools Reopening Framework and Guidance](#)
 - [2020-2021 K-12 Schools Reopening Framework and Guidance Q&A](#)
 - [Guidance on Isolation and Quarantine for COVID-19 Tracing](#)
 - [COVID-19 Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People](#)

ASYMPTOMATIC CLOSE CONTACT QUARANTINE TREE

Is the person fully vaccinated AND has not developed any symptoms since their exposure to someone with COVID-19 OR has the person had COVID-19 within the last 90 days with evidence of lab-confirmed diagnosis AND has not developed any new symptoms since their recent exposure to someone with COVID-19?

If YES, stop here. Allow the person to remain in school or work. Quarantine is not required. Recommend that the person test on Day 3, 4 or 5.

If NO, then determine the length of quarantine for students and/or adults. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) supports the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) two options for shortening the recommended 14-day quarantine duration, **but quarantine should not be discontinued earlier than after Day 7** following last known exposure. Shortened quarantine can be applied to students and adults with exposures in all settings. Please note that at this time, modified quarantine can **ONLY** be applied to students with an exposure in a school setting. *The latter may be subject to change as guidance is updated.*

STUDENTS

Main question to ask in order to decide what quarantine model (modified or shortened quarantine) **to use if it's a student** deemed to be a close contact in a school setting:

Did the exposure occur in a school setting (any setting supervised by school employees)?

If YES, **Modified Quarantine** applies.

If NO, **Shortened Quarantine** applies.

Modified Quarantine

- 1. Were both parties wearing masks during all contacts within 6 ft?**

If YES, go to 2.

If NO, go to **Shortened Quarantine**.

- 2. Can the student provide evidence of a negative COVID-19 test taken 2 times a week (each 3 days apart)?**

If YES, stop here. Student can remain in school for modified (in school) quarantine with testing 2x per week and if Additional Requirements are met.

If NO, go to **Shortened Quarantine**.

Shortened Quarantine

- 1. Can the student provide evidence of a negative COVID-19 test taken on or after day 5?**

If YES, stop here. Return on Day 8 with negative test on or after Day 5. Additional requirements below must be met.

If NO, stop here. Return on Day 11: Day 1 is the day after the last close contact with a person who is contagious. Please see additional note and requirements below. Testing is recommended on or after Day 5 (of being exposed).

ADULTS

Questions to ask in order to decide what quarantine model **to use if it's an adult** deemed to be a close contact:

- 1. Can staff provide evidence of a negative COVID-19 test taken on or after day 5?**

If YES, stop here. Return on Day 8 (shortened quarantine) with negative test on or after Day 5 and if additional requirements below are met.

If NO, stop here. Return on Day 11: Day 1 is the day after the last close contact with a person who is contagious. Please see additional note below. Testing is recommended on or after Day 5 (of being exposed). Additional requirements below must be met.

PLEASE NOTE: Return to school or work before Day 15 includes **Additional Requirements**. If these requirements cannot or will not be met, return on Day 15 is required for students and adults.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Additional requirements for return to school or work before completing 14 days of quarantine:

- If the requirements cannot or will not be met, 14-day quarantine is required.
- The number of days required for quarantine is counted from the day after the person's last close contact with a person who has COVID-19.
- If symptoms occur, the individual should immediately self-isolate, contact their health care provider and seek testing.

For students

Return on Day 15: No additional requirements. Testing on or after Day 5 is recommended.

All of the following options for students are limited to close contacts:

- **Return on Day 11:** Testing on or after Day 5 is recommended but not required.
- **Return on Day 8 (Shortened Quarantine):** Provide evidence that a diagnostic specimen collected on or after Day 5 (from the date of last exposure) is negative.
- **Remain in School (Modified Quarantine):** Applies **ONLY** if exposure occurred in any school setting, supervised by school staff and both the infectious person and exposed student were wearing face masks in accordance with CDPH guidance. Must undergo twice weekly testing (each test at least 3 days apart) and continue to quarantine for all extracurricular activities at school, including sports, and activities within the community setting. The student may be released from modified quarantine after 7 days if a diagnostic specimen collected on or after Day 5 (from the date of last exposure) and the test result is negative. Additional Requirements below will need to be met.

Additional Requirements for the three options listed above: The student must continue daily self-monitoring for symptoms, **AND** follow all recommended non-pharmaceutical interventions (e.g., wearing a mask indoors, hand washing, avoiding crowds) through Day 14 from last known exposure. Mask use outdoors is also encouraged.

For adults

Return on Day 15: No additional requirements.

Return on Day 11: May return if the individual is able to abide by the Additional Requirements described above.

Return on Day 8* (Shortened Quarantine): May return on day 8 if a diagnostic specimen is collected on or after Day 5 from the date of last exposure, tests negative, and individual is able to abide by the additional requirements described above.

*Per [California Executive Order N-84-20](#)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Who needs to quarantine?

- People who have been in **close contact** with someone who has COVID-19, excluding asymptomatic people who have had COVID-19 within the past three months or **who are fully vaccinated**.
- People who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past three months and recovered do not have to quarantine or get tested again as long as they do not develop new symptoms.
 - People who develop symptoms again within three months of their first bout of COVID-19 should follow their doctor's advice on testing.
- It is recommended that people consult with their doctor to determine the proper length of their quarantine if they have a severe to critical illness or are severely immunocompromised and are close contact with someone who has COVID-19.
- Keep in mind that people are contagious from 2 days before symptoms begin or positive test result, whichever is earlier, until 10 days after.

What counts as close contact?

- Being within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period
- Providing care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19
- Having direct physical contact with the person (hugged or kissed them)
- Sharing, eating or drinking utensils
- Being sneezed on, coughed on, or somehow getting respiratory droplets on you from someone with COVID-19

