

CDC K-12 Isolation & Quarantine Guidance

Revised January 6, 2022

Who needs to isolate:

Students, teachers, and staff who have confirmed or suspected COVID-19 or are showing symptoms of COVID-19 need to isolate **regardless of vaccination status**. More specifically,

- People who have a [positive viral test](#) for COVID-19, regardless of whether or not they have [symptoms](#).
- People with [symptoms](#) of COVID-19, including people who are awaiting test results or have not been tested. People with symptoms should isolate even if they do not know if they have been in close contact with someone with COVID-19.

How long should a student or staff member with COVID-19 isolate?

Students, teachers, and staff who **test positive for COVID-19** should undergo isolation for **at least 5 full days**. Day 0 is the day symptoms began or the day of the positive viral test (for people with no COVID-19 symptoms).

- **If they continue to have no symptoms, they can end isolation after at least 5 days.** They should continue to wear a [well-fitting mask](#) around others at home and in public until day 10 (day 6 through day 10). If they are unable to wear a mask when around others, they should continue to isolate for 10 days.
- **If they develop [symptoms](#) after testing positive, the 5-day isolation period should start over.** Day 0 is the first day of symptoms. Follow the recommendations for [ending isolation for people who had COVID-19 and had symptoms](#). They can end isolation after 5 full days if they are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and other symptoms have improved (loss of taste and smell may persist for weeks or months after recovery and need not delay the end of isolation). They should continue to wear a [well-fitting mask](#) around others at home and in public for 5 additional days (day 6 through day 10) after the end of their 5-day isolation period. If they are unable to wear a mask when around others, they should continue to isolate for 10 days.

Who Should Quarantine:

Students, teachers, and staff who come into close contact with someone with COVID-19 should [quarantine](#) for at least 5 days (day 0 through day 5) after their last close contact with a person who has COVID-19 if they are in one of the following groups:

- Ages 18 or older and completed the [primary series](#) of recommended vaccine but have not received a [recommended](#) booster shot when eligible.

- Those who have received the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine (completing the primary series) over 2 months ago and have not received a recommended [booster shot](#).
- Those who are not vaccinated or have not completed a [primary vaccine series](#).

Who Does Not Need to Quarantine:

Students, teachers, and staff who come into close contact with someone with COVID-19 do not need to quarantine if they:

- Are ages 18 or older and have received all [recommended vaccine doses](#), including [boosters](#) and [additional primary shots](#) for some immunocompromised people.
- Are ages 5-17 years and completed the [primary series](#) of COVID-19 vaccines.
- Had confirmed COVID-19 within the last 90 days.
- **Exception:** In the **K-12 indoor classroom** setting or a structured outdoor setting where mask use can be observed (i.e., holding class outdoors with educator supervision), the close contact definition excludes students who were between 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a [clinical diagnosis](#)) if both the infected student and the exposed student(s) [correctly and consistently](#) wore well-fitting [masks](#) the entire time. [Appendices | CDC](#)

Everyone should wear a [well-fitting mask](#) around others for 10 days from the date of their last close contact with someone with COVID-19 (the date of last close contact is considered day 0). They should also [get tested](#) at least 5 days after having close contact with someone with COVID-19, unless they had confirmed COVID-19 in the last 90 days and subsequently recovered. For 10 days after their last exposure to someone with COVID-19, they should watch for fever (100.4°F or greater), cough, shortness of breath, or other COVID-19 symptoms.

[Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools | CDC](#)