



# COVID-19

## HAWAII STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

### DOH INTERIM GUIDANCE FOR K-12 SCHOOLS

#### REDUCED 5-DAY ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE

##### Summary of Guidance for School Changes, updates as of January 11th, 2022

- CDC now recommends shortened 5-day isolation and quarantine periods for K-12 schools.

Schools must enforce correct and consistent use of well-fitting masks in all indoor settings and in outdoor settings where crowding may occur, regardless of vaccination status. Masks may be removed only when actively eating and drinking, or during nap time for young children. During times in the school day when students or staff members may typically remove masks indoors (such as during lunches, snacks, band practice, nap time, etc.), schools should implement layered mitigation strategies (e.g., physical distancing of at least 3 feet, if possible, or to the greatest extent possible; maximizing ventilation; cohorting) to minimize risk.

If individuals are unable to wear a mask and have tested positive or are exposed to a person with COVID-19, they should remain in isolation or quarantine for 10 days, regardless of vaccination status.

#### ISOLATION

Students and staff who have tested positive for COVID-19 or who have COVID-19 symptoms, regardless of their vaccination status should **isolate for 5 days**.

Students and staff can return to school when **all** the following conditions are met:

- 5 days have passed since symptoms first appeared or 5 days after the test was collected, if asymptomatic **and**
- 24 hours with no fever without use of fever-reducing medications; **and**
- Symptoms have improved.
- Well-fitting masks should be worn around others at all times in school settings.

#### QUARANTINE

Quarantine is for people who have been in **close contact\*** with a person who has COVID-19.

#### Who needs to quarantine?

- People who are ages 18 and older and completed the [primary series](#) of recommended vaccine, but have not received a [recommended](#) booster shot when eligible.
- People who received the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine (completing the primary series) over 2 months ago and have not received a [recommended](#) booster shot.
- People who are not vaccinated or have not completed a [primary vaccine series](#).

These individuals could also be eligible for Test to Stay programs that would allow them to stay in the school setting during the quarantine period. Outside the school setting, quarantine recommendations would apply. Schools wishing to implement Test to Stay programs should consult the Department of Health School Liaison for further guidance via email at [doh.c19schools@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:doh.c19schools@doh.hawaii.gov).

<sup>1</sup> Quarantine recommendations for people aged 5-17 will be updated upon further guidance from CDC.

Individuals should **stay home for 5 days** after the last contact with the person with COVID-19\*,  
AND:

- **Get tested on day 5**, even if they don't have symptoms.
- Well-fitting masks should be worn around others at all times in school settings.
- If symptoms develop, immediately **self-isolate** and **get tested**.
- Schools may consider requiring a negative test on or after day 5 prior to return to school as an additional mitigation measure to reduce transmission of COVID-19 on school campuses. Before implementing a required test to return policy, factors impacting feasibility of required testing should be weighed, including equitable access to and availability of testing and schools' capacity to monitor and track results.
  - COVID-19 tests used for clearance to return to school should be approved under an EUA by the FDA.

\*Individuals who have ongoing close contact with a person with COVID-19 because they live in the same house **must** stay home in quarantine for 5 days **after** the person with COVID-19 is released from isolation.

#### **Who does NOT need to quarantine?**

- People who are ages 18 and older and have received all [recommended vaccine doses](#), including [boosters](#) and [additional primary shots](#) for some immunocompromised people.
- People who are ages 5–17 years and completed the [primary series](#) of COVID-19 vaccines.<sup>1</sup>

Quarantine is **not required** and individuals may remain in school.

- Get tested on day 5.
- Well-fitting masks should be worn around others at all times in school settings.
- If symptoms develop, immediately **self-isolate** and **get tested**.

#### **Close Contacts who have recovered from COVID-19 in the Last 90 Days:**

- If they do **not** have symptoms:
  - They do **not** need to quarantine.
  - They do **not** need to be tested for COVID-19.
- Well-fitting masks should be worn around others at all times in school settings.
- Watch for symptoms for 14 days after last contact with the person with COVID-19.
- If symptoms develop, immediately **self-isolate** and **get tested**

**Contacts of Close Contacts:** People who were **not** in close contact with the person with COVID-19 infection.

- Do **not** have to quarantine.
- Do **not** have to get tested.

<sup>1</sup> Quarantine recommendations for people aged 5-17 will be updated upon further guidance from CDC.

### **Participation in high risk extracurricular activities:**

Participation in extracurricular activities that are high-risk for disease transmission and do not allow for mask usage and physically distancing to the extent possible (e.g., indoor or close-contact sports, singing, playing wind instruments, etc.).

- Individuals who have tested positive, regardless of vaccination status, should remain out of high-risk extracurricular activities until 10-days have passed since symptom onset or test collection date, even if asymptomatic.
- Individuals who are a close contact of a person with COVID-19 and are **not** up to date with all recommended COVID-19 vaccines and boosters for their age group should remain out of high-risk extracurriculars until 10-days after their last exposure.

### **Appendix:**

#### **\*Close Contacts in a School Setting:**

- An **adult close contact** is defined as being within 6 feet of a person with COVID-19 infection for 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (regardless of mask use).
- A **student close contact** in a K-12 **indoor classroom setting**, where everyone is wearing a mask correctly and consistently, is defined as being within 3 feet of a person with COVID-19 infection for 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.
- In **cafeterias or indoor rooms** (e.g., breakroom, classroom) where people were eating and drinking and **not** wearing masks, a close contact is any adult or student who was within 6 feet of a person with COVID-19 infection for 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.

#### **Primary Series Completion Definition and Booster Eligibilities:**

People are considered to have completed their primary series 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna, or 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine.

Ages 18 and older are eligible for a booster 5 months after receiving the second dose of Pfizer-BioNTech, 5 months after receiving the second dose of Moderna, or 2 months after receiving the first dose of J&J.

Ages 12–17 are eligible for a Pfizer-BioNTech booster 5 months after receiving the second dose of Pfizer.

**Note:** The Department of Health does not provide isolation “clearance” letters. Schools should **not** require a negative COVID-19 test or a clinician’s note to return to school if the person has completed 5 days of **isolation** and meets the conditions above.

<sup>1</sup> Quarantine recommendations for people aged 5-17 will be updated upon further guidance from CDC.