



# COVID-19

Hawai`i State Department of Health

## Isolation and Exposure Guidance for K-12 Schools

**Summary of Guidance Changes for K-12 Schools updates as of August 15, 2022**

- Removed recommendation to quarantine.

### ISOLATION

Table 1. Isolation Protocol for K-12 School Settings	
COVID-19 Positive Test or COVID-19 Symptoms	Actions
<p>Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 or who have COVID-19 symptoms <b>should isolate for 5 days</b>, regardless of vaccination status.<sup>1</sup></p> <p>Day 1 is the first full day after your symptoms developed or your test specimen was collected.</p>	<p>Students and staff can return to school:</p> <p><b>On Day 6</b>, if positive test and <b>NO</b> symptoms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Must wear a well-fitted mask</b> around others indoors from <b>day 6 to day 10</b> after completing home isolation.</li> </ul> <p><b>On Day 6</b>, if positive test and <b>SYMPTOMS</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>24 hours with no fever (and no fever-reducing medications) <b>and</b></li> <li>Symptoms are improving.</li> <li><b>Must wear a well-fitted mask</b> around others indoors from <b>day 6 to day 10</b> of illness after completing home isolation.</li> </ul> <p>If you have a fever or are not yet improving, remain in isolation until above are true.<sup>2</sup></p>
<p>Students and staff who are sick with symptoms of COVID-19* but do not yet have test results, regardless of vaccination status.</p>	<p>Students and staff can return to school:</p> <p><b>After a negative test if</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>24 hours with no fever (and no fever-reducing medications) <b>and</b></li> <li>Symptoms are improving.</li> </ul> <p>If you have a fever or are sick <b>and</b> your negative test was from a home test, continue to isolate and test again after 24 to 48 hours.</p>

<sup>1</sup> CDC's [Isolation and Precautions for People with COVID-19](#), updated August 11, 2022.

<sup>2</sup> If you have [moderate-to-severe COVID-19 illness or a weakened immune system](#), CDC recommends isolating through day 10 and consulting your healthcare provider.

**Note:** Schools should not require a healthcare provider's note or a negative COVID-19 test to return to school if the person has completed 5 days of isolation and meets the conditions listed.

<p><b><u>Additional Considerations for Participation in High-risk Extracurricular Activities:</u></b> Participation in extracurricular activities that are high risk for COVID-19 spread and do <u>not</u> allow for mask usage (e.g., close-contact sports, choir).</p>	<p>Participants can return to high-risk extracurricular activities on <b><u>Day 11</u></b>.</p>
--	---

\*Students and staff who have chronic symptoms due to a medical etiology (e.g., allergies, asthma) and no known exposure to COVID-19 do not need to isolate unless they develop new or worsening symptoms or test positive for COVID-19.

## **EXPOSURE TO A PERSON WITH COVID-19**

<b>Table 2. Exposure Protocol for K-12 School Settings</b>	
<b>COVID-19 Exposure</b>	<b>Actions</b>
<p>Students and staff who have been exposed to a person with COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status.</p> <p>Day 1 is the first full day after your symptoms developed or your test specimen was collected.</p>	<p>Students and staff can return to school:</p> <p><b>Immediately if <u>NO</u> symptoms.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Must wear a well-fitted mask indoors for 10 full days.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Watch</b> for symptoms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If symptom start, isolate immediately.</li> <li>• Test and stay home until you know the result.</li> <li>• If positive, follow isolation protocol.</li> </ul> <p><b>Test on <u>Day 6</u></b> even if no symptoms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If positive, follow isolation protocol.</li> <li>• If negative, continue to wear a mask indoors through day 10.</li> <li>• COVID-19 can develop up to 10 days after exposure.</li> </ul>
<p>Students and staff who tested positive for COVID-19 within 30 days or less<sup>3</sup></p>	<p>Students and staff can return to school:</p> <p><b>Immediately if <u>NO</u> symptoms.</b></p> <p>Testing is <b><u>not</u></b> recommended if you have <b><u>no</u></b> symptoms.</p>

<sup>3</sup> [CDC's COVID-19 Testing: What You Need to Know](#), updated August 11, 2022