



# Alameda County 2021-22 School Guidance



Compiled by the  
Alameda County Superintendent of Schools  
and  
Alameda County Health Officer

*Updated January 7, 2022*

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Latest updates are marked with a ☆

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## How to Use This Guidance Document

 Items marked with a gear icon are in the process of being updated.

As COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted and Alameda County has aligned itself with both state and federal guidance, we have created a new document for the 2021-2022 school year that makes it easier for you to go directly to the source for resources, guidance and pertinent documents.

Please note that many of the links include the date of their most recent version for your clarity.

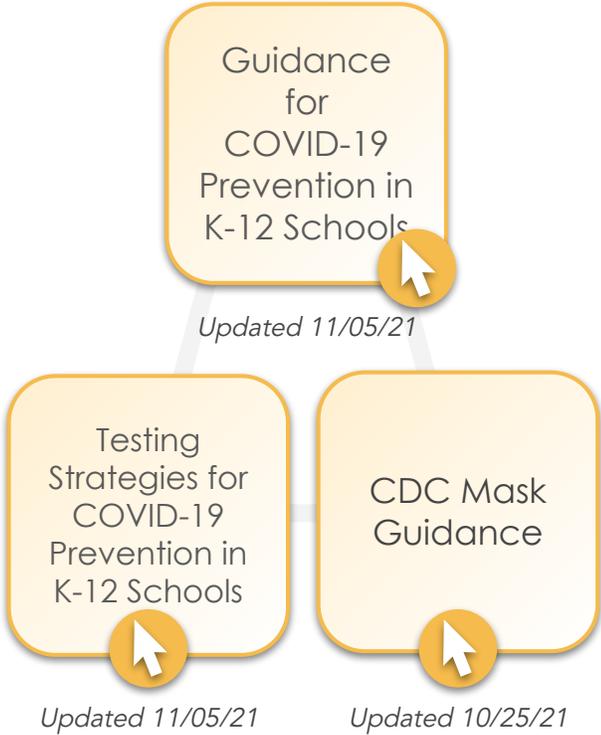
We will continue to ensure that these links are updated and that any other relevant information is added and we will mark new updates as they come in with teal text on the dates listed.



# FEDERAL GUIDANCE

## Centers for Disease Control

CDC Released the first version of its guidance for K-12 Education for the 2021-22 school year on July 9, 2021



## U. S. Department of Education

This guide presents a pathway to reopen schools and help them remain open.



# STATE GUIDANCE

## State Guidance for Reopening Schools

The Safe Schools For All Hub consolidates key resources and information related to COVID-19 and schools.



Emergency  
Temporary  
Standards for  
Employers  
and Workers



Updated 12/13/21

Safe Schools  
For All Hub



## California Department of Public Health

Outbreak  
Response Teams

Mobile  
Testing and  
Vaccination  
Services



Updated 8/13/21

Guidance  
for K-12  
Schools



Updated 11/24/21  
Includes Updated  
Sports Guidance

Face  
Covering  
Guidance



Updated 12/13/21

K-12 Schools  
Testing  
Framework



Updated 11/01/21

Vaccine  
Verification  
Q&A

Updated 8/19/21

Vaccine  
Verification  
for Workers  
in Schools



Updated 8/11/21

K-12 School  
Guidance  
FAQ



Updated 11/15/21

★  
Isolation &  
Quarantine  
(Staff)



# LOCAL GUIDANCE

## Health Officer Orders

  
Alameda  
County  
Health  
Orders



Updated 6/14/21

  
Berkeley  
Health  
Orders



Updated 12/29/21

Orders of the County of Alameda's Public Health Officer and the City of Berkeley Public Health Officer Orders - with reopening requirements specific to schools in Berkeley.

## Positive Case Reporting, Symptom Protocol & Testing

  
Confirmed  
Case  
Process



Updated 7/28/21

  
Report a  
Positive  
Case



School  
Portal for  
Outbreak  
Tracking  
Intake Form



  
Testing FAQs



Updated 11/8/21

Learn More  
About Free  
Testing  
Programs



Confirmed COVID-19 and SARS-CoV-2 Positive Testing Process for Schools, Child Care Programs and Extracurricular Programs.

## COVID-19 Retesting Tips



**COVID-19 RETESTING TIPS**

**My child just tested positive at school, but I want to get them retested because they don't have any symptoms.**

A positive test indicates a COVID-19 infection, and retesting is NOT recommended. Many people with COVID-19 test positive before they have symptoms, and are people with COVID-19 who have no symptoms at all.

**I got my child retested, because I think the first test was a false positive. Their second test was negative. Do I want to bring them back to school?**

A general retesting is NOT recommended. A first-time positive PCR test, the child is considered positive and should complete their isolation period. If the first test was a rapid test and the second was a PCR test, the child is still considered positive and should complete their isolation period.

**Why would two tests have different results?**

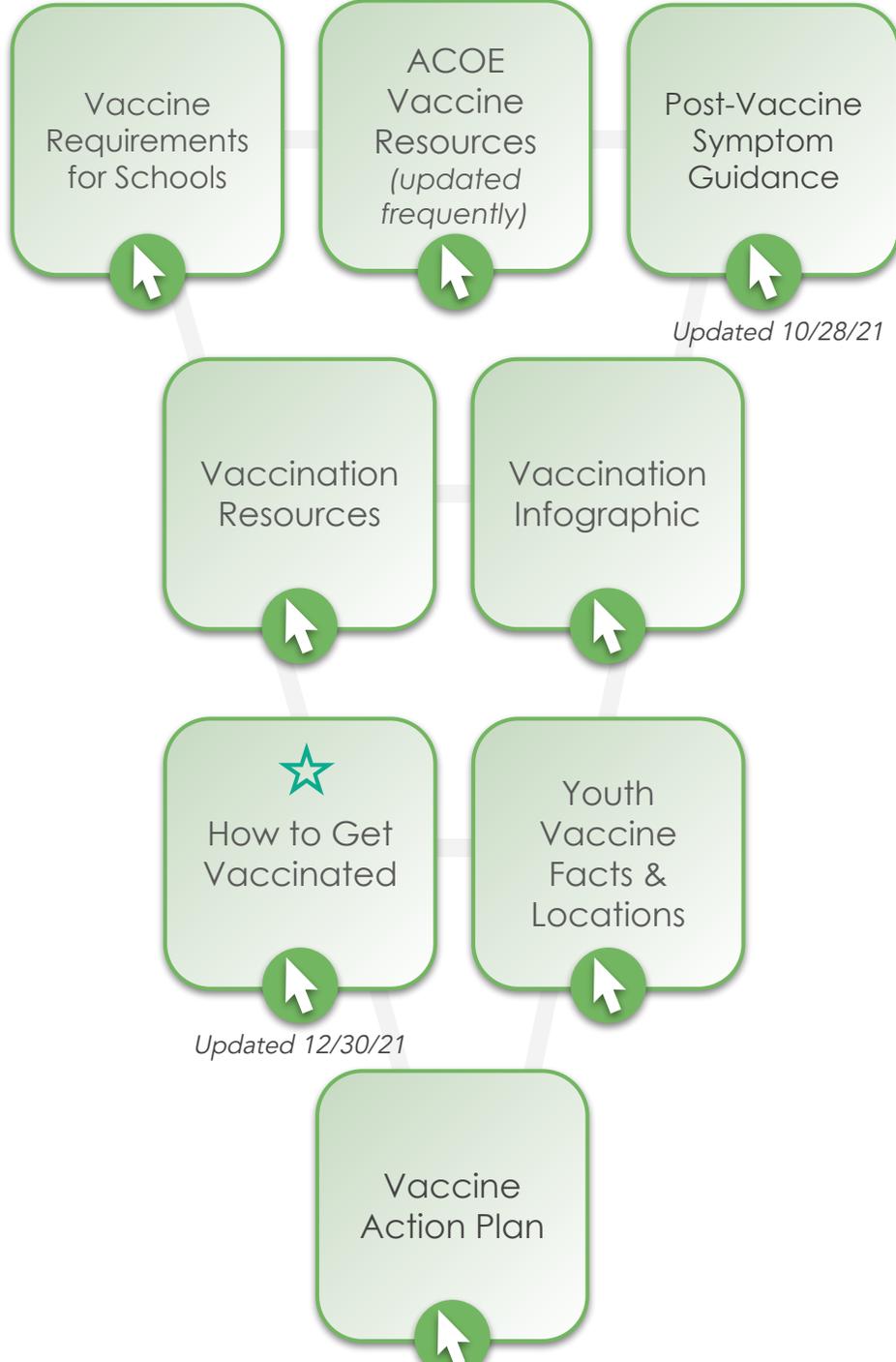
There are many reasons why two tests can give different results. A test collected on two different days during COVID-19 infection may give different results if symptoms are collected using different techniques or if different labs are used. It is also possible that two tests were done on different days, even when the child is still positive. Rapid and antigen test results are more likely to be false positive than PCR tests.

ALAMEDA COUNTY HEALTH CARE SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

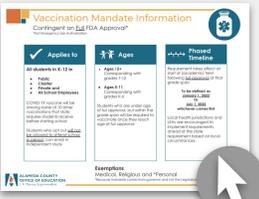


# VACCINES

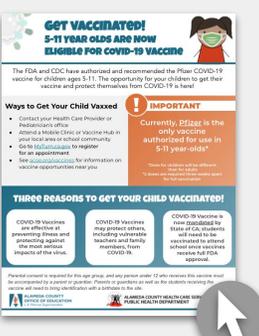
CDPH strongly recommends that all persons eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccines receive them at the first opportunity.



Vaccine Mandate Overview



Age 5-11 Vaccine Information





# ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE

**A  
B  
C**

**CHILD CARE**

Updated 6/29/21

**☰**

**AIR QUALITY**

Updated 9/16/21

## Masking

**★**

Face  
Covering  
Guidance

**☞**

Updated 01/05/22

**★**

Face  
Covering  
Q&A

**☞**

Updated 12/15/21

## Events & Travel



Travel Guidance  
Overview Flyer

**TRAVEL**

**✈**

Updated 12/13/21

**★**

Mega Events

**☞**

Updated 12/17/21

Tips to Stay Safe  
During Potential  
Winter Surge

Overnight Field Trips



# ISOLATION, QUARANTINE & TESTING

## Handouts



Summary of K-12 Testing Scenarios  
Updated 11.8.21



2021-2022 Quarantine Requirements for TK-12 School Settings



Modified & Shortened Quarantine



Quarantine Timeline



[When Can I Leave Isolation?](#)



[Have I Had Close Contact With Someone With COVID-19?](#)



[Guidance for Close-Contact Positive Person in Household](#)



[How to Create Quarantine Space in Tight Quarters](#)



[How Long Should I Stay in Quarantine?](#)



[I've Recovered From COVID, Now What?](#)



### COVID-19 RETESTING TIPS

By only just tested positive or about to leave to get their retested because they don't have any symptoms.

1. If you have been tested at school, you should be retested at 10 days after your first test.

2. If you have been tested at school, you should be retested at 10 days after your first test.

3. If you have been tested at school, you should be retested at 10 days after your first test.

4. If you have been tested at school, you should be retested at 10 days after your first test.

5. If you have been tested at school, you should be retested at 10 days after your first test.

6. If you have been tested at school, you should be retested at 10 days after your first test.

7. If you have been tested at school, you should be retested at 10 days after your first test.

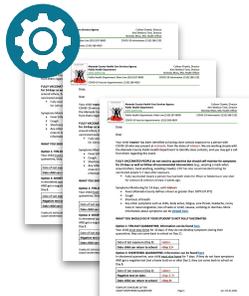
8. If you have been tested at school, you should be retested at 10 days after your first test.

9. If you have been tested at school, you should be retested at 10 days after your first test.

10. If you have been tested at school, you should be retested at 10 days after your first test.

[Retesting Tips](#)

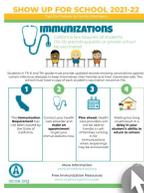
## Close Contact Letter Templates



- [Letter for 10 Day Quarantine & Shortened Quarantine Options](#)
- [Letter for 10 Day Quarantine Option](#)
- [Letter for All Quarantine Options](#)

# SHOW UP FOR SCHOOL RESOURCES

## Handouts



[Immunization Information](#)



[What to Expect When Returning to School](#)



[Free Meals Information](#)



[Tips for Getting Back to Class](#)



[Changes to Independent Study](#)



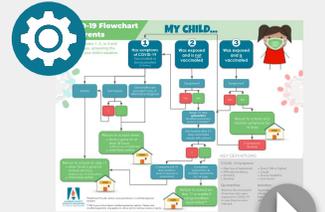
[Modified & Shortened Quarantine](#)



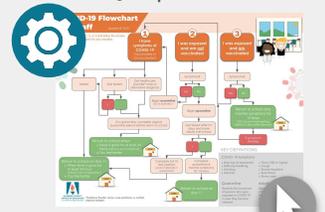
[Age 5-11 Vaccine Information](#)

Step-by-Step Flowcharts

Child Exposed to or Experiencing Symptoms



Staff Exposed to or Experiencing Symptoms





## FAQ

### Lunch & Recess

➤ **How can we minimize close contact when eating lunch indoors?**

Since students are not eligible for modified quarantine when contact is unmasked, employ physical distance to the degree feasible for your space. Look for opportunities to spread indoor lunch across multiple settings, so students don't all occupy one space. Maximize the opportunities for outdoor lunch. You might also consider requiring masking when students are not actively eating, both inside and outside, as a further layer of protection. Though there is no mandate for outdoor masking, you are still able to implement additional health measures where practicable.

➤ **If high schools have open campus for lunch, is it safe for students to leave campus? What are the implications for contact tracing with open campus?**

There is no recommendation to close campuses. However, if students are off campus for lunch, it would exclude these students from the modified quarantine option. It might also be more difficult to contact trace in the event of a positive case.

### COVID Symptoms

➤ **What language should a medical evaluation (defined as Physician, Nurse Practitioner, or Certified Physician Assistant) include in at note documenting a student's chronic medical condition?**

The note should describe the symptoms typical of the student's underlying chronic condition (e.g., allergies or asthma) and provide a time boundary for the symptoms when applicable.

#### Quick Links

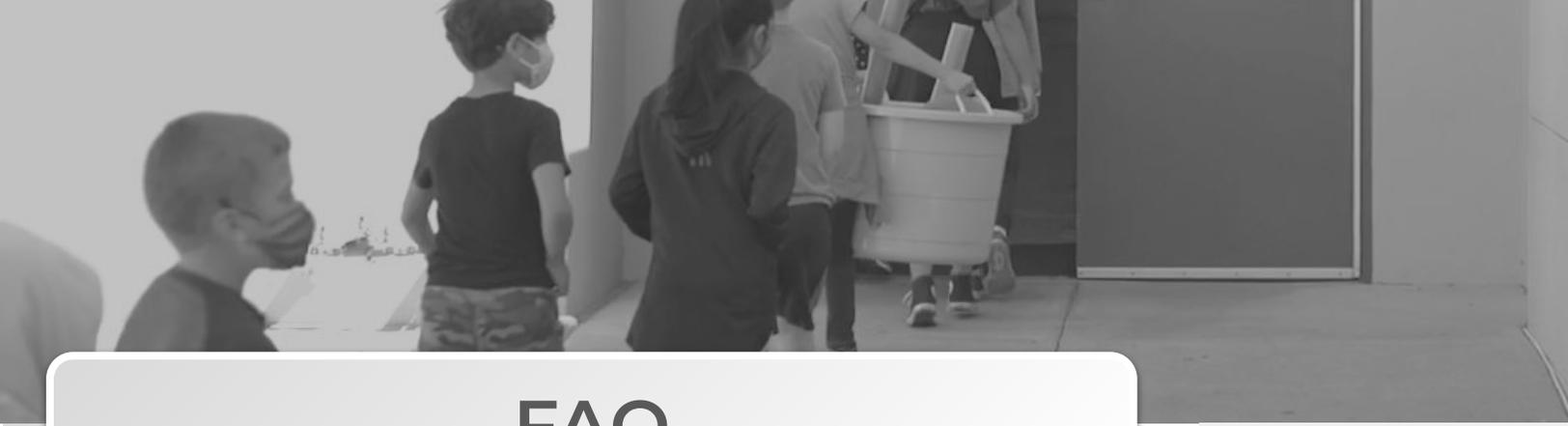


Testing FAQ



Face Covering FAQ

Vaccine FAQ



# FAQ

## Modified Quarantine

**Modified and Shortened Quarantine** Please see the [Modified and Shortened Quarantine document on page 9](#) for more detail regarding these alternative quarantine options.

➤ **Can students attend afterschool programs when they are in modified quarantine?**

Yes, as long as the afterschool program is located on the same campus where they attend school. Afterschool programs may be considered an essential component of the school day. Clear communication protocols with the school regarding who is in modified quarantine and for how long should be established. Though they may participate in aftercare/afterschool programs, they should refrain from all other extracurricular activities, including sports.

➤ **If students are exposed to a COVID-19 positive case in an afterschool program, are they eligible for modified quarantine?**

Yes, but you should proceed with caution. The ability to confirm mask compliance in the positive case and contacts, conduct twice-weekly testing, track test results, and develop clear communication protocols with the school regarding who is in modified quarantine and for how long should be in place.

➤ **Are the modified and shortened quarantine options required?**

No, modified and shortened quarantine are optional alternatives to a full 10-day quarantine. Districts/schools should consider their capacity to offer and track the testing component of these quarantine options before they decide to offer them to students.

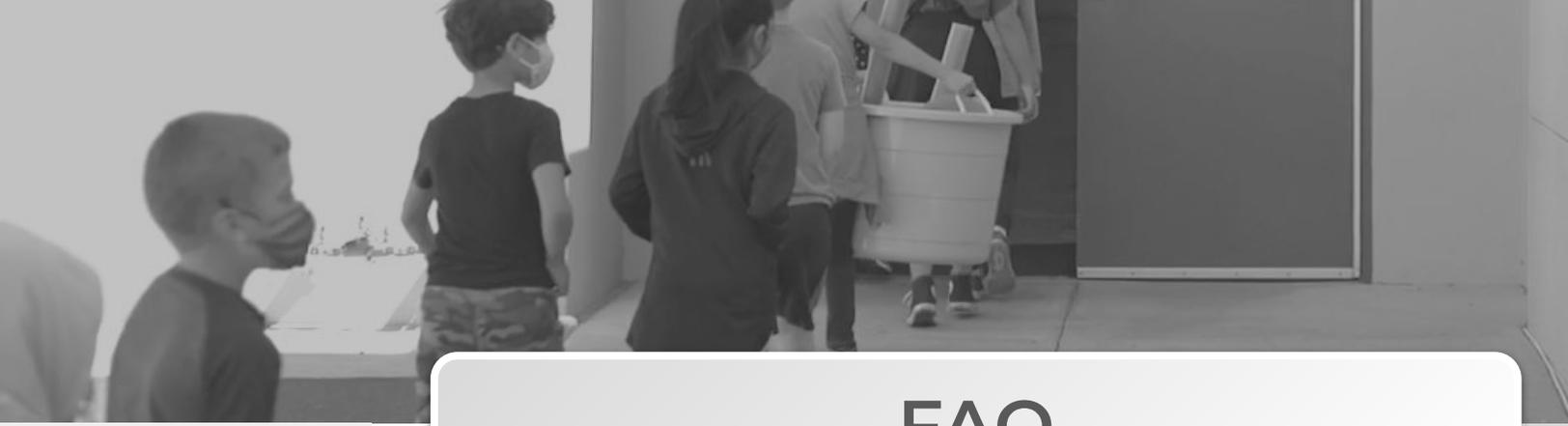
➤ **Can students enter modified quarantine if they were exposed outside of a school setting?**

No. Modified quarantine applies only to potential exposures in indoor and outdoor school settings (including buses operated by the public and private school system). Please refer to the [CDPH FAQ](#) for an extensive list.

### Definitions

**Isolation** separates people who are **infected** with a contagious disease from people who are not infected. [An infographic that explains Isolation can be viewed on page 8.](#)

**Quarantine** is used to keep someone who might have been **exposed** to COVID-19 away from others. [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) about Quarantine can be viewed on page 8.](#)



# FAQ

## Modified Quarantine

➤ **Are staff able to be on modified quarantine?**

No. Modified quarantine applies to students only.

➤ **In a modified quarantine, when can the student return? For example, if they have their first test scheduled for Wednesday, can they return on Tuesday? Or must they have completed the first test prior to return?**

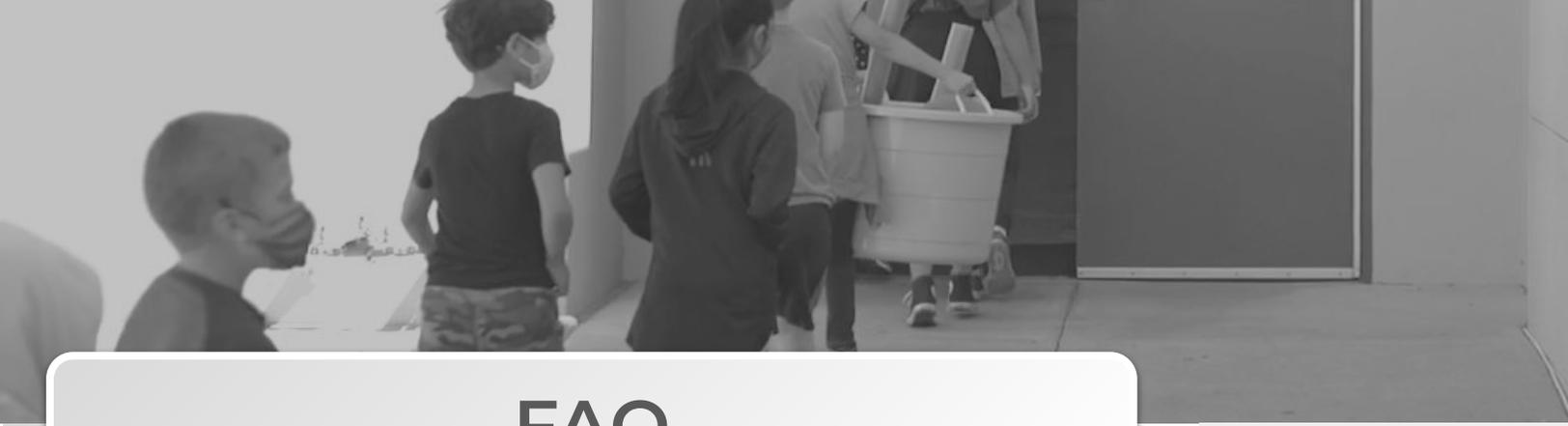
Ideally, the student will get tested immediately (i.e. the first day they are in quarantine). If the student is not able to test immediately, they may remain in class while they seek testing and await the result. The second test should be at least 3 days after the first test. If their final test is negative on or after day 5, they may exit quarantine on Day 8.

➤ **What do we do when there are multiple students who test positive in a classroom?**

★ Additional case investigation and contact tracing are required for each additional case. Exposed students can remain at school in modified quarantine or the school can elect to have students complete at-home quarantine.

➤ **When determining the appropriate type of quarantine, what does it mean to be unmasked?**

If a student is unmasked for > 15 minutes, including at lunch or recess, then the student would be considered unmasked.



# FAQ

## General Quarantine & Siblings

- **If a student/staff person develops symptoms of COVID-19 while in quarantine and is not able to get a timely test result, what should the school do?**

Since the person has been exposed and has symptoms, you can presume the person is COVID-19 positive and ask that unvaccinated siblings and close contacts at school enter quarantine. If the symptomatic person receives a negative PCR or molecular test, siblings and close contacts may be released from quarantine.

- **What if a parent or sibling has COVID-19 and cannot avoid interacting with a student?**

If the student is vaccinated, they do not need to quarantine. If they are unvaccinated, the student should quarantine for at least 10 days after the person with COVID-19 in their household completes 10 days of isolation. Day 1 of quarantine is the day the infected person was released from isolation.

- **If a student has been exposed to a positive case at school, do the student's siblings also need to quarantine?**

No, only the close contacts of the positive case must quarantine.

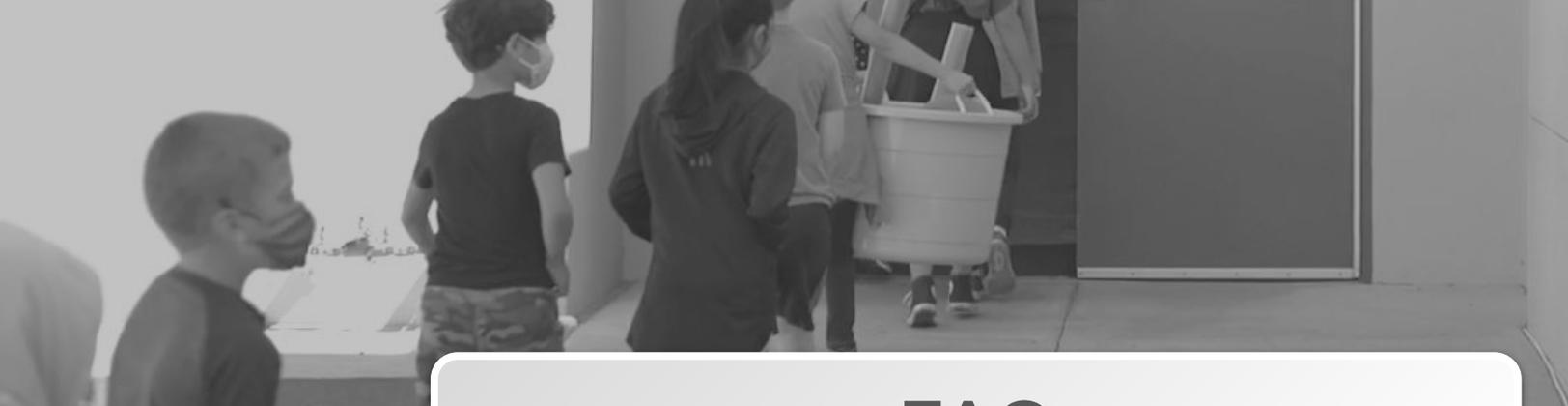
- **If a student or staff member was previously diagnosed with COVID-19, do they need to quarantine after being exposed to a positive case?**

If a student or staff member was diagnosed with/tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days, they do not have to quarantine as long as they remain asymptomatic. The 90-day period begins the day the person was released from isolation. If they develop symptoms of COVID-19, they should isolate and contact their healthcare provider.



- **Can a home antigen test be used to release from isolation?**

Yes, a home antigen test may be used to release from isolation. Please see this [CDPH Over-The-Counter-Test \(aka home test\) guidance](#) for more information.



## FAQ

### Positive Cases/Treating After 90 Days

- **Does someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 need to receive a negative test result before returning to work or school?**

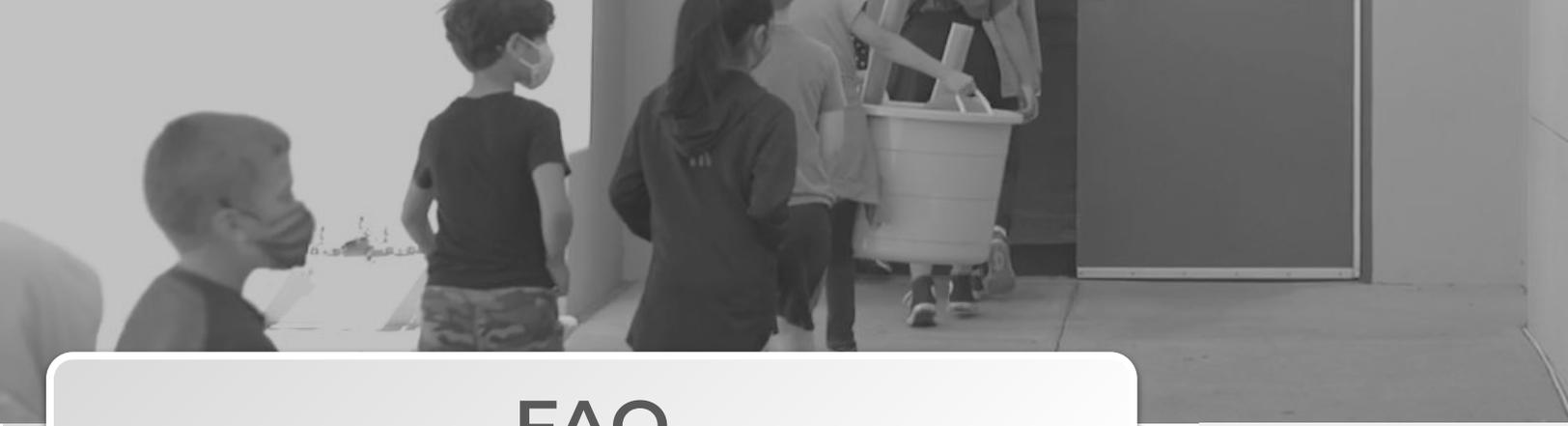
No. People who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 should not test for at least 90 days after they have been released from isolation. People may continue to test positive after they are. ACPHD advises against testing within 90 days, including screening testing at school sites. If the person has symptoms, they should isolate and contact their health care provider to determine appropriate next steps.

- **Does someone with a possible false positive antigen result need to begin isolation right away?**

If a positive antigen test is being confirmed by PCR, the person should isolate until the results of the PCR are back.

- **What should I advise a student/staff to do who has had COVID in the past 90 days and develops symptoms?**

Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 should get tested. A positive antigen test would indicate a new COVID-19 infection. A positive PCR test may indicate a new infection or leftover virus from the previous infection. If someone had a documented COVID-19 infection within 90 days and tests positive by PCR, they should contact their healthcare provider for next steps.



# FAQ

## Masking

➤ **Can we have more strict masking requirements than the guidance?**

Yes. Schools and districts can set policies more restrictive than the state and county guidance, but not less restrictive.

➤ **Are mesh masks acceptable?**

Mesh masks are decorative only and do NOT meet CDPH guidance on what constitutes an effective mask. See CDPH "[Get the Most out of Masking](#)" resource.

## Contact Tracing

➤ **Are seating charts required for indoor classroom spaces for contact tracing purposes?**

Seating charts are not required but strongly recommended, wherever possible, to assist with contact tracing.

## Travel

➤ **How does Alameda County Public Health Department (ACPHD) define domestic travel?**

CDPH has [summarized CDC travel guidance](#). Alameda County has defined domestic travel as travel outside the nine Bay Area counties (Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano and Sonoma).