

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SCHOOLS FOLLOWING ID OF COVID-19 CASE(S)

Community Transmission Level in County	Number of COVID-19 Cases Within 14-day period:  1 student <b>OR</b> 1 staff	Number of COVID-19 Cases Within 14-day period:  2-4 students/staff in same school building <b>OR</b> <5% of total number of students/staff in a school building are cases	Number of COVID-19 Cases Within a 14-day period:  5+ students/staff in same school building <b>OR</b> ≥5% of total number of students/ staff in a school building are cases
<b>Low</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. School <b>does not need to close</b></li> <li>2. Clean area(s) where case spent time</li> <li>3. Public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Close school(s) for <b>3-5 days*</b></li> <li>2. Clean area(s) where cases spent time</li> <li>3. Public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Close school(s) for <b>14 days*</b></li> <li>2. Clean entire school(s)</li> <li>3. Public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine</li> </ol>
<b>Moderate</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. School does not need to close</li> <li>2. Clean area(s) where case spent time</li> <li>3. Public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Close school(s) for <b>5-7 days*</b></li> <li>2. Clean area(s) where cases spent time</li> <li>3. Public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Close school(s) for <b>14 days*</b></li> <li>2. Clean entire school(s)</li> <li>3. Public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine</li> </ol>
<b>Substantial</b>	DOH and PDE recommend a Full Remote Learning Model for all schools in counties with substantial level of community transmission	DOH and PDE recommend a Full Remote Learning Model for all schools in counties with substantial level of community transmission	DOH and PDE recommend a Full Remote Learning Model for all schools in counties with

*\*When an entire school is recommended to close, lengths of closure time will vary by level of community transmission and number of cases. This allows public health staff the necessary time to complete case investigations and contact tracing, and to provide schools with other appropriate public health advice like cleaning and disinfecting.*

## What is Case Investigation, Contact Tracing, Isolation, and Quarantine?

Public health staff is responsible for case investigation and contact tracing for every case of COVID-19, regardless of level of community transmission or number of cases identified in a school setting. Refer to DOH's [Contact Tracing Frequently Asked Questions](#) for a complete overview of the case investigation and contact tracing process.

**Cases** are people who have been infected with the virus that causes COVID-19. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [case definition](#) for COVID-19 includes confirmed and probable cases.

**Isolation** is when the public health staff direct cases to stay home, in a hospital, or in a care facility to ensure they do not expose others with COVID-19. Individuals who are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 should be immediately isolated while waiting for test results. Public health staff handles case investigation steps including determining close contacts during the infectious period.

**Close contacts** are individuals who have been exposed (within 6 feet distance for at least 15 consecutive minutes) to someone who is a case during the infectious period, and it is unknown if the contact will go on to develop COVID-19. Public health staff determine close contacts after a case interview. In some school situations, it might be difficult to determine whether individuals are contacts or whether an entire cohort, classroom, or other group (extracurricular activity members) might need to be considered exposed, particularly if people have spent time together indoors. Public health staff will work with school administrators to determine whether entire classrooms or other cohort groups need to be quarantined. Based on these discussions, public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine for 14 days from the last exposure to the case; this includes household contacts (like siblings and parents/guardians/caregivers) who attend or work in other schools.

## What Are the Recommendations for Cleaning and Disinfecting in a School Setting?

Schools should close off all areas used by a case and not use those areas again until after cleaning and disinfecting. This may include a classroom, common areas used by the case(s) such as lunchrooms and restrooms, school transportation options like a bus or van, and in some cases, the entire school building. Students should not be present when disinfectants are being used and should not participate in disinfecting activities.

To protect the health of janitorial and cleaning staff, schools should wait at least 24 hours before cleaning and disinfecting. If 24 hours is not feasible, wait as long as possible. Ensure safe and correct use and storage of cleaning and disinfection products, including storing products securely away from children. More information on cleaning and disinfecting is available in the DOH and PDE [Public Health Guidance for School Communities](#).

## What Should Schools Do When a Student or Staff Present Symptoms of Covid-19 but Are Not a Confirmed Case?

It is **not necessary** to notify DOH or CMHD staff of every symptomatic student or staff member, since many non-COVID-19 illnesses may present with similar symptoms. School administrators should contact DOH or CMHD for further guidance if a parent/guardian/caregiver notifies the school of potential exposure by a student, staff member, or school visitor. Refer to the DOH and PDE [COVID-19 Symptomatic K-12 Student or Staff Process Flow](#) (PDF) for steps schools should take when a student or staff present with symptoms of COVID-19 but are not a confirmed case.