

PROTOCOL FOR COVID-19 EXPOSURE MANAGEMENT PLAN IN TK-12 SCHOOLS

Recent Updates: (Changes are highlighted in yellow)

2/25/2021:

- Added the Transitional Kindergarten grade to K-12 schools.
- Clarified that requirements and recommendations in the exposure management plan are specific to TK-12 instructional and non-instructional campuses serving TK-12 schools.
- Updated the definition of a confirmed COVID-19 case.

NOTE: This protocol document may be updated as additional information and resources become available. Check the Pasadena Public Health Department website:

<https://www.cityofpasadena.net/covid-19/#guidance-faq-protocols> for updates to this document.

Timely, effective efforts to contain COVID-19 exposures at a school level, by school staff, can help maximize the impact of the Pasadena Public Health Department (PPHD) COVID-19 response.

Primary and Secondary Schools serving students from Transitional Kindergarten through Grade 12 (K-12 Schools) are trusted community partners that can help PPHD improve the timeliness and impact of the Public Health response through rapid initiation of a COVID-19 Exposure Management Plan (EMP). Immediate implementation of an EMP when a single case of COVID-19 is identified at a school can accelerate the ability to contain the spread of infection and prevent outbreaks from occurring.

The steps for managing exposures to 1, 2, and 3 or more COVID-19 cases at TK-12 Schools are described below and summarized in Appendix A. Because TK-12 Schools will vary in the level of resources available for COVID-19 exposure management, *required* steps are the minimum elements that must be included in the EMP. *Recommended* steps include optional elements for exposure management where school resources are sufficient. The requirements and recommendations presented are specific to TK-12 instructional and non-instructional facilities serving TK-12 Schools. For the purposes of this plan, the word "School" applies to both TK-12 instructional and noninstructional facilities.

Exposure Management Planning Prior to Identifying 1 COVID-19 Case at School

- Required:* A designated School COVID-19 Compliance Task Force that is responsible for establishing and enforcing all COVID-19 safety protocols and ensuring that staff and students receive education about COVID-19. A designated COVID-19 Compliance Officer who serves as a liaison to PPHD in the event of a COVID-19 cluster or outbreak at the setting.
- Required:* A plan for all students and employees who have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 infection or are quarantined because of exposure to any case(s) to have access to testing or be tested for COVID-19 infection.

Exposure Management for 1 COVID-19 Case at School

- Required:** After identifying one confirmed or suspected COVID-19 case (student or employee), the School Compliance Task Force instructs the case to follow US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) home isolation instructions for COVID-19 (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html>). **NOTE:** A person is considered to be diagnosed with or likely to have COVID-19, based on one of more of the following criteria: a) They received a positive diagnostic (viral) test for COVID-19 and/or b) A healthcare provider clinically suspects that they have COVID-19 and/or c) They have symptoms that are consistent with COVID-19 (e.g., fever, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion, nausea/vomiting, or diarrhea).
- Required:** School Compliance Task Force informs the case that PPHD will contact the case directly to collect additional information and issue the Health Officer Order for Case Isolation.
- Required:** School Compliance Task Force works with the case to generate a list of : (1) employees and children with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 who were on campus at any point within the 14 days prior to the illness onset date and (2) persons on campus who were exposed to the infected person during the infectious period. The illness onset date is the first date of COVID-19 symptoms or the COVID-19 test date, whichever is earlier. The School Compliance Officer submits this information to PPHD using the [COVID-19 Case and Contact Line List for the Educational Sector](#) within 1 day of notification of a case. If needed, additional time may be requested. For technical assistance on how to complete the line list contact: nursing@cityofpasadena.net.
- A case is considered to be infectious from 2 days before their symptoms first appeared until the time they are no longer required to be isolated (i.e., no fever for at least 24 hours, without the use of medicine that reduces fevers AND other symptoms have improved AND at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared). A person with a positive COVID-19 test but no symptoms is considered to be infectious from 2 days before their test was taken until 10 days after their test.
 - A person is considered to have been exposed to a case during the infectious period if at least one of the following criteria are met if they are one of the following:
 - If the exposure happened in a school classroom or school cohort, all persons that were in the classroom or cohort during the infectious period are considered exposed at this time.
 - An individual who was within 6 feet of the infected person for a cumulative 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period, even if a face mask was worn;
 - An individual who had unprotected contact with the infected person's body fluids and/or secretions of a person with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 (e.g., being coughed or sneezed on, sharing utensils or saliva, or providing care without using appropriate protective equipment).
 - Being present in the same cohort or classroom as the infected person.
- Required:** Students and employees that are identified to have had an exposure to the case at school are notified by the School Compliance Task Force of the exposure through a letter or other communication strategies. A School Exposure Notification letter template is available at: [COVID-19 Template Notification Letters for Education Settings](#). The notification of exposure should include the following messages:

- Students and employees with an exposure to the case should receive a test (a PCR nasal swab test, not a blood test or a rapid nasal swab antigen test) for COVID-19 at least five days after exposure, whether or not they have symptoms, and inform the school of test results. This will determine the extent of disease spread at the school and serve as a basis for further control measures. Testing resources include: Employee Health Services or Occupational Health Services, Student Health Center, personal healthcare providers, and community testing sites: <https://covid19.lacounty.gov/testing/> and covid19.pasadena/testing. Individuals who need assistance with health insurance enrollment or finding a medical provider can call 626-744-6068 or 211.
- Exposed students and employees are required to quarantine for 10 days since the last exposure to the case while the case was infectious (as defined above). Those exposed must maintain a full 10-day quarantine, regardless of any test results. Test results (even a negative result) CANNOT shorten a quarantine period to fewer than 10 days. In addition, the exposed person must conduct symptom screening for 4 more days, and self-isolate if symptomatic at any time, and seek clinical evaluation and testing. At any time after the test, until day 10, the person may subsequently develop disease, with or without symptoms. Home Quarantine Guidance for COVID-19 is available at: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/ncorona2019/covidquarantine/>.
- PPHD will contact exposed students and employees directly to collect additional information and issue the Health Officer Order for Quarantine.

- ☑ *Recommended:* School Compliance Task Force will determine whether additional notification is needed to inform the wider school community about the school exposure and precautions being taken to prevent spread of COVID-19. A general notification letter template is available at: [COVID-19 Template Notification Letters for Education Settings](#).

Exposure Management for 2 COVID-19 Cases at School within a 14-day Period

- ☑ *Required:* After identifying 2 laboratory confirmed or suspected cases (students and/or employees) within a 14-day period, the school follows the *required* steps for 1 case.
- ☑ *Recommended:* School Compliance Task Force determines whether the 2 cases are epidemiologically linked, meaning that the two affected individuals were both present at some point in the same setting during the same time period while either or both were infectious.*

**A case is considered to be infectious from 2 days before symptoms first appeared until they are no longer required to be isolated (i.e., no fever for at least 24 hours without the use of medicine that reduces fever AND other symptoms have improved AND at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared). A person with a positive COVID-19 test but no symptoms is considered to be infectious from 2 days before their test was taken until 10 days after their test.*

- Determination of epidemiological links between cases may require further investigation to assess exposure history and identify all possible locations and persons that may have been exposed to the case while infectious. A tool is available to assist in the assessment of epidemiological links at: [COVID-19 Exposure Investigation Worksheet for the Education Sector](#). For technical assistance on how to assess for epidemiological links, please contact nursing@cityofpasadena.net.

