Planning for COVID-19 Scenarios in Schools
A Toolkit for School Leaders and Local Public Health Authorities

Updated January 27, 2022

Any substantial changes in this version have been marked up in *green italics* to help track changes. The use of italics and a different color is for meeting accessibility requirements and does not signal any specific emphasis or importance.

Introduction

This resource was prepared by the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) with additional input from local public health authorities (LPHA), school nurses, and school leaders to support school staff’s ability to respond well to COVID-19 related illness events. This document outlines some critical steps and offers an overview of decision points, but it does not replace medical expertise, epidemiologist knowledge, or practical solutions in local schools. Each school leader will need to continually evaluate the response to outbreak protocols, update plans, and balance health and safety with core instructional needs for schools.

Purpose of this Toolkit

This toolkit is designed to support school leaders and local public health authorities in their shared role in responding to COVID-19-related illness events in schools. This toolkit details specific scenarios and immediate action steps required to respond and communicate when a student or staff member:

- Is exposed to a confirmed or presumptive case of COVID-19
- Becomes ill with COVID-19 symptoms
- Tests positive for COVID-19
- Tests negative for COVID-19
- Has not been tested for COVID-19

Each scenario requires action on behalf of the school and close collaboration with the LPHA. The LPHA has authority to make public health decisions, including recommendations for or against isolation and quarantine. This guide is not intended to be the final word for all possible situations; in some situations, an LPHA may make recommendations that differ from those contained in this guide.

To help school leaders, a Communications Toolkit has been created that includes customizable communication templates, including letters and notifications to families, talking points and a press release to use with the media, and other tools aligned to the scenarios presented here.
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Using This Toolkit

There is no one correct way to access the information in this toolkit. It is intended to be a resource that school leaders can access and use as the need emerges. However, given the highly technical information contained in this toolkit, being able to apply this guidance in a timely manner as the need arises requires that school leaders:

1. Carefully read this document in its entirety before the need to utilize it.
2. Review each scenario and consider how that scenario would unfold, if realized in their local context. Consider:
   a. How well the current operational plan supports the school’s response in this scenario and if updates are needed;
   b. How this scenario would impact teaching and learning within the school; and
   c. Which communication tool(s) would be used and how/how much they would need to be adapted prior to use.
3. Help your staff to understand the content in this toolkit prior to it being needed. The additional stresses related to having positive cases and exposed person(s) in your school community will make it hard for staff to access this information in real time without prior knowledge and understanding.

About Scenarios

Carefully read through the scenarios and terms in this document. Each scenario is an example event that involves a school and LPHA’s response to a COVID-19 illness at a school. The scenarios share required steps for the school leaders as well as the LPHA.

| **Exposure Scenarios**: Refers to a student or staff member exposed to a person who is a confirmed or presumptive case of COVID-19. |
| **Becomes Ill Scenarios**: Refers to a student or staff member who becomes ill with COVID-19 symptoms, either after no known contact with a person with COVID-19 or after close contact with a person with COVID-19. |
| **Tests Positive Scenarios**: Refers to one or more student or staff member having a positive result on a COVID-19 viral test, including the action necessary if in the same or different cohorts. |
| **Tests Negative Scenarios**: Refers to an ill student or staff member who has a negative result on a COVID-19 viral test. |
| **Has Not Been Tested Scenarios**: Refers to a student or staff member who has not been tested in response to specific events. |
Common Protocols

Overall Framework for Isolation and Quarantine

- People who have COVID-19 should isolate for at least 5 days after their symptoms started (or, if they have no symptoms, for at least 5 days after the test date) and 24 hours after any fever has resolved without the use of fever-reducing medicine and other symptoms are improving. They should wear a mask around other people for an additional 5 days (10 days following their symptom onset or date of their positive test), including outdoors. (Isolation period is 10-20 days if suffering from severe to critical illness related to COVID-19, if hospitalized for COVID-19, or if the individual has a severely compromised immune system.)

- Any person who has been in close contact with a person who has COVID-19 and is subject to quarantine should quarantine at home for at least 5 days from their last exposure to someone with COVID-19. They should wear a mask around other people for an additional 5 days (10 days following their exposure), including outdoors.
  - The quarantine period is counted from the last day of exposure, so if an individual has a household member with COVID-19 who cannot stay isolated at home, the quarantine period would start on day 5 - day isolation period. This could mean a total quarantine period of up to 10 days if a 5-day quarantine is used.

Exceptions to Quarantine

- Adults who are up-to-date with their COVID-19 vaccination as defined by CDC or children 5–17 years who are fully vaccinated (i.e., have completed a primary series of COVID-19 vaccines) are not required to quarantine.
- Close contacts who have had a confirmed or presumptive COVID-19 case (verified by a positive viral COVID-19 test and/or LPHA) and have completed their isolation are not required to quarantine if the new exposure happened within 90 days of symptom onset or first positive test, whichever is earlier, for their original case.
- Close contact with someone who was exposed to COVID-19 is not considered an exposure. That is, quarantine is only recommended for people who have close contact with a case, not close contact with a contact (an exposed person without COVID-19 symptoms and no positive test result.)

In January 2022, OHA revised its exposure (close contact) definition for Oregon K-12 settings to no longer considering masked contact (including on school buses, classrooms, bathrooms, hallways) to be an exposure regardless of distancing. The new recommendations acknowledge that the layered mitigation protocols in K-12 schools work to minimize transmission in these settings and that the vast majority of transmissions has occurred following unmasked contact. The recommendations include continuing to practice physical distancing to the greatest extent possible.
On November 23, 2021, Oregon replaced the outdoor mask mandate with recommendations to mask while at large outdoor gatherings where it is difficult to physically distance from other individuals, and also removed the K–12 requirement for mask-wearing in outdoor school settings.

In the K–12 outdoor setting (e.g., recess, outdoor classrooms), the close contact definition is unlikely to be met, because students are unlikely to have been within 6 feet of a confirmed case for 15 or more minutes. Therefore, these close contacts do not constitute exposure and do not warrant quarantine. LPHAs have the discretion to require quarantine if the outdoor exposure is deemed to pose a higher risk, as described below.

Circumstances that increase the risk of outdoor exposures include:

- Low vaccination rate in the community or among those participating in the activity where the exposure occurred
- High community case rates
- Type of exposure (e.g., repeated exposures, exposure during an activity where the case was exerting themselves, exposure where case and contacts were in very close proximity)
- Duration of exposure (prolonged)

Test to Stay (Modified Quarantine for K–12 Exposures)

Modified quarantine for K-12 exposures (Test to Stay)
In January 2022, OHA revised its test to stay modified quarantine option for exposures in indoor unmasked K–12 settings in which universal masking is otherwise fully implemented.

As part of the modified quarantine option, unmasked individuals in these indoor settings are able to remain in school if they are asymptomatic and complete 2 tests during their quarantine period: a test when the exposure is identified and a test 3–5 days following the exposure.

Students and staff participating in test to stay may attend school-related extracurricular activities but must always mask during these activities for the 5-day quarantine period and for 5 days after (10 days total). School-related extracurricular activities are activities affiliated with the school which occur outside of the regular school curriculum and include school-sanctioned sports (not community or club sports), before and after-school care, clubs, meetings, tutoring, counseling, etc. School-related extracurricular activities may occur on or off the school premises. Students and staff participating in modified quarantine must observe quarantine outside of school-related activities.

Test to stay should only be used following unmasked exposures in indoor K–12 settings where universal indoor masking is otherwise correctly and consistently implemented; specifically:

- Unmasked curricular exposures due to the nature of the activity (e.g., swimming, band class)
- Unmasked exposures for students or staff actively eating or drinking

Close contact during unmasked, outdoor recess does not constitute exposure and does not warrant quarantine (see above).

Students and staff exposed outside of the above K–12 settings are not eligible for test to stay.
More information is available in the K-12 Diagnostic Testing Program Resources here and the Test to Stay FAQs here.

LPHAs are responsible for communicating with schools as to when modified quarantine is an acceptable option within their jurisdiction.

Testing at schools:
Most schools in Oregon offer free on-site COVID-19 testing through OHA’s diagnostic testing program. Any student or staff member at a school enrolled in OHA’s diagnostic testing program with COVID-19 symptoms or recent exposure to a person with COVID-19 can access testing through this program. More information is available here:

- [Oregon Health Authority: Oregon's COVID-19 Testing in K-12 schools](#)
- [OHA 3560 COVID-19 Testing in Oregon’s K-12 Schools](#)
Identify Area of Responsibility and Next Steps outlined in Scenarios

The scenario tables offer different examples with critical steps for schools. School and classroom sizes are highly variable across Oregon, and cohort sizes also vary. Schools should consider the sizes of potentially affected cohorts when determining if closures are necessary. **Schools should strive to maintain small “stable cohorts,” as this will minimize schoolwide disruptions when a case of COVID-19 is identified in a school.**

The response to a case of COVID-19 in the school setting requires a collaboration among many community partners. The following guidance tables categorize general “involved groups” in the response, in order to fit as many school settings as possible. It is recognized that the tables do not capture the community-level partners that may be critical in supporting public health. This includes the active community partners that support Oregon’s schools, school districts, LPHAs, and the Oregon Health Authority.

The scenario tables below are intended to be a guide and may not cover every possible situation. In some cases, the local public health authority (LPHA) may make decisions that differ from the scenarios. LPHAs have the authority to make exceptions or take additional measures as needed to protect the public’s health.

2021-22 Communications Toolkit

School and district leaders are encouraged to [use the tools linked on this page](#) to communicate with staff, school boards, students, families, the media and their community about the 2021-22 school year. The tools are customizable, and intended to serve as a starting point for school leaders to modify as needed to communicate with their community.
Symptoms of COVID-19

People with COVID-19 can have a wide range of symptoms, ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2–14 days after exposure to the virus. The “primary” COVID-19 symptoms require exclusion from school. The “non-primary” COVID-19 symptoms can be seen with many other illnesses, in addition to COVID-19. The non-primary symptoms do not always require exclusion. When feasible, ill students and staff with any primary COVID-19 symptoms should be encouraged to seek viral testing. If a student has non-primary symptoms that persist for more than one day, the parent should consider evaluation by the child’s healthcare provider who can determine if viral testing is advised. If a staff member has non-primary symptoms that persist for more than one day, the staff member should consider evaluation by their healthcare provider who can determine if viral testing is advised.

Primary COVID-19 symptoms:

- Cough
- Temperature of 100.4°F or higher
- Chills
- Shortness of breath
- Difficulty breathing
- New loss of taste or smell

Non-primary COVID-19 symptoms:

- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Nasal congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
# Scenarios

The following table summarizes the scenarios in the tables that follow. *Click on the underlined scenario number to go to the scenario table that describes actions required by involved persons.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scenario</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scenario 1a</td>
<td>A student or staff member has been exposed to a person with confirmed or presumptive COVID-19 within their household. The student or staff member is not currently showing symptoms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scenario 1b</td>
<td>A student or staff member has been exposed to a person with confirmed or presumptive COVID-19 outside of their household. The student or staff member is not currently showing symptoms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scenario 1c</td>
<td>An unmasked student or staff member has been exposed to a person with confirmed or presumptive COVID-19 in a K–12 indoor setting (<em>e.g.</em>, unmasked learning settings, mealtimes). The student or staff member is not currently showing symptoms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scenario 2a</td>
<td>A student or staff member becomes ill with primary COVID-19 symptoms (cough, temperature of 100.4 °F or higher, chills, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, or new loss of taste or smell). Ill person has no known COVID-19 contacts in the past 14 days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scenario 2b</td>
<td>A student or staff member becomes ill with primary COVID-19 symptoms. Ill person was in close contact with someone who had confirmed COVID-19 in the past 14 days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scenario 3a</td>
<td>An ill student or staff member has a negative COVID-19 viral test and has no known COVID-19 contacts in the past 14 days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scenario 3b</td>
<td>An ill student or staff member with primary COVID-19 symptoms has a negative COVID-19 viral test. Ill person was in close contact with someone who had confirmed COVID-19 in the past 14 days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scenario 4a</td>
<td>An ill student or staff member has not been tested with a COVID-19 viral test. Ill person has no known COVID-19 contacts in the past 14 days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scenario 4b</td>
<td>An ill student or staff member with primary COVID-19 symptoms has not been tested with a COVID-19 viral test, and a clear alternative non-respiratory diagnosis is not identified. Ill person was in close contact with someone who had confirmed COVID-19 in the past 14 days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scenario 4c</td>
<td>An ill student or staff member with primary COVID-19 symptoms has not been tested with a COVID-19 viral test, and a clear non-respiratory diagnosis is identified as the cause of illness. Ill person was in close contact with someone who had confirmed COVID-19 in the past 14 days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scenario 5</td>
<td>One student or staff member has a positive COVID-19 viral test.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scenario 6</td>
<td>Two or more people within same cohort have positive COVID-19 viral tests within 14 days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scenario 7</td>
<td>Two or more people in different cohorts have positive COVID-19 viral tests within 14 days.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**Scenario 1a.** A student or staff member* has been exposed to a person with confirmed or presumptive COVID-19 within their household. The student or staff member is not currently showing symptoms.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Involved persons</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
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</table>
| **School**                            | ● Send individual home (if not home already).  
● Record the date school became aware and excluded the individual.  
● Student *should* be offered instruction under remote learning while quarantined.  
● Offer COVID-19 testing if available.                                                                                                           |
| **Exposed person**                    | ● Quarantine at home for 5 days. The individual *may* be offered testing 5 days following their last exposure. Modified quarantine (test-to-stay) is *not* an alternative because the exposure did not occur in K–12 school setting. If additional household members become ill with COVID-19, or if the exposed person cannot avoid continued close contact, the total duration of quarantine may need to be longer. See CDC for quarantine scenario examples.  
● The individual should continue to monitor themselves for symptoms for 10 days after their last exposure. If exposed person develops primary COVID-19 symptoms during quarantine, see Scenario 2b. If exposed person develops non-primary COVID-19 symptoms during quarantine, refer to exclusion guidance in Communicable Disease Guidance for Schools.  
● If exposed person tests positive during quarantine, see Scenario 5.                                                                                                                                  |
| **Household members, including siblings (if exposed person is a student)** | ● Other household members should also quarantine* at home. If additional household members become ill with COVID-19, or if the exposed person cannot avoid continued close contact, the total duration of quarantine may need to be longer. See CDC for quarantine scenario examples.  
● If an exposed household member becomes ill during quarantine, see Scenario 2b. If an exposed household member develops non-primary COVID-19 symptoms during quarantine, refer to exclusion guidance in Communicable Disease Guidance for Schools.                                                                 |

* The actions listed here do not apply to adults who are up-to-date with their COVID-19 vaccination or children who are fully vaccinated. See Exceptions to Quarantine, pages 4–5.
**Scenario 1b.** A student or staff member* has been exposed to a person with confirmed or presumptive COVID-19 outside of their household. *(See Scenario 1c for exposures that occur in a school setting.)* The student or staff member is not currently showing symptoms.

<table>
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</table>
| **School**       | ● Send individual home (if not home already).  
                  ● Record the date school became aware and excluded the individual.  
                  ● Student *should* be offered remote learning instruction while quarantined.  
                  ● Offer COVID-19 testing if available. |
| **Exposed person**| ● Quarantine at home for 5 days if testing available. The individual *may* be offered testing 5 days following their last exposure. The individual should continue to monitor themselves for symptoms and *wear a mask (including outdoors)* for 10 days after their last exposure. Modified quarantine (test-to-stay) may be an alternative if exposure occurred in K–12 school setting *(see Scenario 1c)*.  
                  ● If exposed person develops primary COVID-19 symptoms during quarantine, see Scenario 2b. If exposed person develops non-primary COVID-19 symptoms during quarantine, refer to exclusion guidance in Communicable Disease Guidance for Schools. |
| Household members, including siblings (if exposed person is a student) | ● Unless household members* were also exposed to the person with COVID-19, they may continue school attendance as long as the exposed person remains healthy. |

* The actions listed here do not apply to adults who are up-to-date with their COVID-19 vaccination or children who are fully vaccinated. See also Exceptions to Quarantine and Test to Stay (Modified Quarantine), pages 4–6.
Scenario 1c. An unmasked student or staff member* has been exposed to a person with confirmed or presumptive COVID-19 in a K–12 indoor setting (e.g., unmasked learning settings, mealtimes.) The student or staff member is not currently showing symptoms.

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| **School**       | • Record the date school became aware of the exposure.  
|                   | • In this situation, the individual is eligible for “test to stay” (modified quarantine for K–12). Students and staff participating in test to stay are allowed to attend school and school-related extracurricular activities during their 5-day quarantine period but are required to mask at all times, except while eating and drinking, including the 5-day quarantine period and for 5 days after. They are expected to observe quarantine outside of school activities. Students and staff are tested twice during the 5 days following exposure:  
|                   | • The first test should occur before students and staff are allowed to return to the classroom.  
|                   | • The second test should occur 3-5 days following the exposure.  
|                   | • If test to stay is not possible or individual opts out, follow quarantine procedure in Scenario 1b.  
|                   | • Please refer to the K-12 Diagnostic Testing Program Resources here and the Test to Stay FAQs here for more details. |
| **Exposed person** | • Students and staff participating in test to stay are allowed to attend school and school-related extracurricular activities during their 5-day quarantine period but are required to mask at all times, except while actively eating or drinking, during the 5-day quarantine period and for 5 days after (10 days total). They are expected to observe quarantine outside of school activities. All students and staff are required to be tested twice during the 5 days following exposure as noted above. The individual should continue to monitor themselves for symptoms for 10 days after their last exposure.  
|                   | • Please refer to the K-12 Diagnostic Testing Program Resources here and the Test to Stay FAQs here for more details.  
|                   | • If exposed person develops primary COVID-19 symptoms during quarantine, see Scenario 2b. If exposed person develops non-primary COVID-19 symptoms during quarantine, refer to exclusion guidance in Communicable Disease Guidance for Schools. |
| **Household members, including siblings (if exposed person is a student)** | • Unless household members* were also exposed to the person with COVID-19, they may continue school attendance as long as the exposed person remains healthy. |

* The actions listed here do not apply to adults who are up-to-date with their COVID-19 vaccination or children who are fully vaccinated. See Exceptions to Quarantine and Test to Stay (Modified Quarantine), pages 4–6.
**Scenario 2a.** A student or staff member becomes ill with primary COVID-19 symptoms (cough, temperature of 100.4°F or higher, chills, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, or new loss of taste or smell). Ill person has no known COVID-19 contacts in the past 14 days.

<table>
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</table>
| **School**                                    | • If student or staff member is currently on school grounds:  
  ○ Isolate ill person following **RSSL 1i**;  
    ▪ Offer COVID-19 testing at school if available.  
    ▪ Send ill person home.  
  • Record the symptoms reported or observed, and the date school became aware and excluded the individual.  
  • Student **should** be offered instruction under remote learning while isolated; any other students in the household who require quarantine (see below) should also be offered instruction under remote learning. |
| **Ill person**                                | • Seek COVID-19 testing. If individual does not have a healthcare provider and needs assistance finding a testing site, use the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) testing map to find the closest testing location: [https://govstatus.egov.com/or-oha-covid-19-testing](https://govstatus.egov.com/or-oha-covid-19-testing) or call 211.  
  • If the ill person has a negative COVID-19 viral test, see **Scenario 3a.**  
  • If the ill person has not been tested for COVID-19, see **Scenario 4a.**  
  • If the ill person has a positive COVID-19 viral test, see **Scenario 5.** |
| **Household members, including siblings (if ill person is a student)** | • See relevant guidance mentioned above (**Scenario 3a, 4a, or 5**) to determine whether household members need to quarantine. |
**Scenario 2b.** A student or staff member becomes ill with primary COVID-19 symptoms (cough, temperature of 100.4 °F or higher, chills, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, or new loss of taste or smell). Ill person was in close contact with someone who had confirmed COVID-19 in the past 14 days.

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</table>
| **School**       | • If student or staff member is currently on school grounds:  
|                  |   ○ Isolate ill person following [RSSL 1i](#).  
|                  |   ○ Offer COVID-19 testing at school if available.  
|                  |   ○ Send ill person home.  
|                  |   ● Record the symptoms reported or observed, and the date school became aware/excluded the individual.  
|                  |   ● Student should be offered instruction under remote learning while isolated; any other students in the household who require quarantine (see below) should also be offered instruction under remote learning.  
| **Ill person**   | • Seek COVID-19 testing. If individual does not have a healthcare provider and needs assistance finding a testing site, use the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) testing map to find the closest testing location: [https://govstatus.egov.com/or-oha-covid-19-testing](https://govstatus.egov.com/or-oha-covid-19-testing) or call 211.  
|                  |   ● If the ill person has a negative COVID-19 viral test, see Scenario 3b.  
|                  |   ● If the ill person has not been tested for COVID-19, see Scenario 4b.  
|                  |   ● If the ill person has a positive COVID-19 viral test, see Scenario 5.  
| **Household members, including siblings (if ill person is a student)** | • If the ill person is determined by the LPHA to be a presumptive case, all household members must quarantine* at home. Refer to Scenario 1a for details.  

*See Exceptions to Quarantine, pages 4-5.*
**Scenario 3a.** An ill student or staff member has a **negative** COVID-19 viral test and has **no known COVID-19 contacts** in the past 14 days.

<table>
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<tr>
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</table>
| **School**                        | ● Send individual home (if not home already) if they have any symptom(s) listed under “Symptom-Based Exclusion Guidelines” in [Communicable Disease Guidance for Schools](https://www.oea.oregon.gov/ohs/communicable-disease-guidance-schools).  
   ● Student should be offered instruction under remote learning while excluded from building(s).  
   ● Follow “Symptom-Based Exclusion Guidelines” in [Communicable Disease Guidance for Schools](https://www.oea.oregon.gov/ohs/communicable-disease-guidance-schools) to determine when individual can return to school. |
| **Ill person**                    | ● Stay out of school while ill. Check with school on when individual may return to school. |
| **Household members,**            | ● Household members without symptoms may continue school attendance. |
| including siblings (if ill person is a student) |                                                                         |
**Scenario 3b.** An ill student or staff member with primary COVID-19 symptoms (cough, temperature of 100.4 °F or higher, chills, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, or new loss of taste or smell) has a negative COVID-19 viral test. Ill person was in close contact with someone who had confirmed COVID-19 in the past 14 days.

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</table>
| **School**                       | - Send individual home (if not home already).  
- Record the symptoms reported or observed, and the date school became aware and excluded the individual.  
- Document on cohort logs any instances when the ill individual was unmasked within 6 feet of others indoors* during the school day.  
- Notify students and staff who are a close contact to the ill individual to monitor for symptoms and stay home if ill.  
- Provide cohort logs to LPHA upon request.  
- Student should be offered remote instruction while excluded; any other students who require quarantine (see below) should also be offered instruction under remote learning. |
| **Ill person**                   | - Even though a COVID-19 test was negative, the ill person may be considered a presumptive case because of symptoms and recent close contact; the negative viral test may be a false negative result.  
- Ill person should isolate at home for 5 days since symptoms first appeared and until 24 hours after fever is resolved, without use of fever-reducing medicine and other symptoms are improving. |
| **Exposed persons**              | - Refer to Scenario 1a, 1b, or 1c.                                                                                                                                                                      |
| **Household members, including siblings (if ill person is a student)** | - All household members must quarantine* at home, following LPHA instructions. Refer to Scenario 1a for details.                                                                                       |

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* See Exceptions to Quarantine, pages 4–5.
**Scenario 4a.** An ill student or staff member has not been tested with a COVID-19 viral test. Ill person has no known COVID-19 contacts in the past 14 days.

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</table>
| **School**                        | ● If ill student or staff member is currently on school grounds:  
  ○ Offer COVID-19 testing if available.  
  ○ Send individual home.  
  ● If the ill person has one or more primary COVID-19 symptoms, exclude* from school for 5 days after symptoms first appeared and until 24 hours after fever is resolved, without use of fever-reducing medicine, and other symptoms are improving. If a negative COVID-19 viral test result is later obtained, then see scenario 3a; student may return to school per “Symptom-Based Exclusion Guidelines” in Communicable Disease Guidance for Schools.  
  ● Student should be offered remote instruction while excluded. |
| **Ill person**                    | ● Seek testing if ill with any COVID-19 symptoms. Many schools are offering COVID-19 testing. If individual does not have a health care provider and needs assistance finding a testing site, use the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) testing map to find the closest testing location or call 211. Once test result is obtained, this scenario no longer applies; refer to appropriate scenario based on the result.  
  ● If the ill person has one or more primary COVID-19 symptoms, stay home from school for 5 days after symptoms first appeared and until 24 hours after fever is resolved, without use of fever-reducing medicine, and other symptoms are improving.  
  ○ Fully vaccinated people are at much lower risk of COVID-19 than others, but there is still a risk of vaccine breakthrough cases. Therefore, vaccination status does not rule out COVID-19.  
  ● If the ill person has no primary COVID-19 symptoms other than fever or chills and a clear alternative non-respiratory diagnosis is identified by a healthcare provider as the cause of the person’s illness (e.g., a positive urine culture in a child with fever), then usual disease-specific return-to-school guidance should be followed and person should be fever free for 24 hours, without use of fever-reducing medicine.  
  ○ A healthcare provider note is required for return to school before 5 days, ensuring that the person is no longer contagious.  
  ● If the ill person has no primary COVID-19 symptoms, then usual disease-specific return-to-school guidance should be followed. |
| Household members, including siblings (if ill person is a student) | ● All household members may continue school attendance. |

* Note that school exclusion in this scenario is distinct from general isolation and quarantine requirements of public health.
**Scenario 4b.** An ill student or staff member with primary COVID-19 symptoms (cough, temperature of 100.4 °F or higher, chills, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, or new loss of taste or smell) **has not been tested** with a COVID-19 viral test, and a clear alternative non-respiratory diagnosis is not identified. Ill person was in close contact with someone who had confirmed COVID-19 in the past 14 days.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Involved persons</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **School**       | • If student or staff member is currently on school grounds:  
|                  |   ○ Isolate ill person following [RSSL 1i](https://example.com).  
|                  |   ○ Offer COVID-19 testing if available.  
|                  |   ○ Send ill person home.  
|                  | • **Record the symptoms reported or observed, and the date school became aware.**  
|                  | • Document on cohort logs any instances when the ill individual was unmasked within 6 feet of others indoors* during the school day.  
|                  | • **Notify students and staff who are a close contact to the ill individual to monitor for symptoms, stay home if ill and seek testing.**  
|                  | • Provide cohort log to LPHA upon request.  
|                  | • Student should be offered instruction under remote learning while isolated; any other students in the household who require quarantine (see below) should also be offered instruction under remote learning. |
| **Ill person**   | • Seek testing. Many schools are offering COVID-19 testing. If individual does not have a health care provider and needs assistance finding a testing site, use the [Oregon Health Authority (OHA) testing map](https://example.com) to find the closest testing location. Once test result is obtained, this scenario no longer applies; refer to appropriate scenario based on the result. Once test result is obtained, this scenario no longer applies; refer to appropriate scenario based on the result.  
|                  | • The ill person should isolate at home for 5 days after symptoms first appeared and until 24 hours after fever is resolved, without use of fever-reducing medicine, and other symptoms are improving.  
<p>|                  | • If an alternative respiratory diagnosis is identified by a healthcare provider as the cause of the person’s illness (e.g., positive influenza test), COVID-19 is still not ruled out because co-infection is possible. The ill person should follow guidance from a healthcare provider or public health. |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exposed persons</th>
<th>• Refer to Scenario 1a, 1b, or 1c.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Household members, including siblings (if ill person is a student)</td>
<td>• All household members must quarantine* at home. Refer to Scenario 1a for details.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* See Exceptions to Quarantine, pages 4–5.
**Scenario 4c.** An ill student or staff member with primary COVID-19 symptoms (cough, temperature of 100.4 °F or higher, chills, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, or new loss of taste or smell) has not been tested with a COVID-19 viral test, and a clear non-respiratory diagnosis is identified as the cause of illness. Ill person was in close contact with someone who had confirmed COVID-19 in the past 14 days.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Involved persons</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **School**       | • If student or staff member is currently on school grounds:  
|                  |   ○ Offer COVID-19 testing if available.  
|                  |   ○ Send individual home.  
|                  | • Student **should** be offered instruction under remote learning while excluded; any other students in the household who require quarantine (see below) should also be offered instruction under remote learning. |
| **Ill person**   | • Seek testing. COVID-19 is possible despite alternative diagnosis. Many schools are offering COVID-19 testing. If individual does not have a health care provider and needs assistance finding a testing site, use the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) testing map to find the closest testing location: [https://govstatus.egov.com/or-oha-covid-19-testing](https://govstatus.egov.com/or-oha-covid-19-testing) or call 211. Once test result is obtained, this scenario no longer applies; refer to appropriate scenario based on the result.  
|                  | • **Because a clear alternative non-respiratory diagnosis is identified by a healthcare provider** as the cause of the person’s illness (e.g., a positive urine culture in a child with fever), then usual disease-specific return-to-school guidance should be followed. However, **this person also requires quarantine***, due to recent exposure to COVID-19 case. Person must quarantine at home for 5 days with testing 5 days following their last exposure, or as directed by the LPHA (refer to [Scenario 1a](#)) and meet applicable return-to-school guidance based on their diagnosis. After meeting applicable return-to-school guidance, modified quarantine (test-to-stay) may be an alternative if exposure occurred in K–12 school setting. The individual should continue to monitor themselves for symptoms for 10 days after their last exposure. If exposed person develops primary COVID-19 symptoms during quarantine, see [Scenario 2b](#). If exposed person develops non-primary COVID-19 symptoms during quarantine, refer to exclusion guidance in [Communicable Disease Guidance for Schools](#). |
| **Household members, including siblings (if ill person is a student)** | • **Because a clear alternative non-respiratory diagnosis is identified by a healthcare provider** as the cause of the person’s illness (e.g., a positive urine culture in a child **with fever**), then all household members may continue school attendance, as long as the family member develops no COVID-19 symptoms during quarantine. |

*See Exceptions to Quarantine, pages 4-5.*
Scenario 5. One student or staff member has a positive COVID-19 viral test; OR
Scenario 6. Two or more people within same cohort have positive COVID-19 viral tests within 14 days

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Involved persons</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **School**       | ● Send student(s)/staff home if not already isolated outside the school setting.  
                    ● Use Common Communication protocol to notify class/cohort/staff *of COVID-19 case(s) and that the school is taking appropriate action*.  
                    ● Document on cohort logs any instances when the ill individual *was unmasked within 6 feet of others indoors* during the school day.  
                    ● Provide cohort logs to LPHA *upon request*.  
                    ● Determine whether an entire cohort requires quarantine, follow Common Communication protocol.  
                    ● Student(s) should be offered instruction under remote learning while isolated; any other students in the household who require quarantine (see below) should also be offered instruction under remote learning. |
| **Ill person(s)** | ● Isolate at home for 5 days after symptoms first appeared *and* until 24 hours after fever is resolved, without use of fever-reducing medicine, *and* other symptoms are improving. If no COVID-19 symptoms, then isolate at home for 5 days after positive test.  
                      ● A negative viral COVID-19 test is *not* needed for return to school.  
                      ● *Wear a well-fitting mask during all activities for 10 days (5 days during isolation and 5 days after).* |
| **School District Superintendent or Executive Leadership** | ● Determine whether cohort quarantine is indicated.  
                                             ● Use Common Communication protocol when communicating decision to quarantine the cohort. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exposed persons</th>
<th>• Refer to <strong>Scenario 1a, 1b, or 1c.</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Household members, including siblings (if ill person is a student)</td>
<td>• All household members must quarantine* at home. Refer to <strong>Scenario 1a</strong> for details.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* See Exceptions to Quarantine, pages 4–5.
**Scenario 7. Two or more people** in different cohorts have positive COVID-19 viral tests within 14 days

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Involved persons</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **School**       | ● Send student(s)/staff home if not already isolated outside the school setting.  
                  ● Document on cohort logs *any instances when the ill individual was unmasked within 6 feet of others indoors* during the school day.  
                  ● Provide cohort logs to LPHA upon request.  
                  ● Determine whether an entire cohort (or other identified group) requires quarantine, follow Common Communication protocol.  
                  ● Student(s) should be offered instruction under remote learning while isolated; any other students in the household who require quarantine (see below) should also be offered instruction under remote learning. |
| **Ill persons**  | ● Isolate at home for 5 days after symptoms first appeared *and* until 24 hours after fever is resolved, without use of fever-reducing medicine, *and* other symptoms are improving. If no COVID-19 symptoms, isolate at home for 5 days after positive test.  
                  ● A negative viral COVID-19 test is **not** needed for return to school. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local public health authority (LPHA)</th>
<th>School District Superintendent or Executive Leadership</th>
<th>Exposed person</th>
<th>Household members and siblings (if ill person is a student)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• If cases are related (e.g., same household, or same exposure source outside of school setting), may not be due to transmission across different cohort.</td>
<td>• Determine whether cohort quarantine is indicated.</td>
<td>• Refer to Scenario 1a, 1b, or 1c.</td>
<td>• All household members must quarantine* at home. Refer to Scenario 1a.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Determine whether mask use by all involved students* was consistently maintained during school day in each cohort. Identify exposed contacts.</td>
<td>• Use Common Communication protocol when communicating decision to quarantine the cohort.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• If LPHA is unable to determine who was exposed and who was unexposed, quarantine the entire cohort.*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Notify exposed contacts to initiate quarantine period.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• If cases are unrelated (e.g., not from same household, cannot identify a common source outside of school setting), these may be sporadic cases. Refer to Scenario 5.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• If the cases are unrelated but have definite exposure to each other during school day (e.g., not assigned to same cohort, but attend same after-school activity), this may be due to transmission during groups outside of cohorts.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Recommend to quarantine* if specific groups can be identified. If specific overlapping groups cannot be identified, recommend quarantine of all affected cohorts.*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Notify exposed contacts to initiate quarantine period.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* See Exceptions to Quarantine, pages 4–5.
### Terms to Know

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community spread</td>
<td>When people have been infected with the virus in an area and some are not sure how or where they became infected.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirmed case</td>
<td>Individual who tests positive using an FDA Emergency Use Authorized (EUA) diagnostic (viral) test.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coronavirus</td>
<td>A large family of viruses that are common in people and many different species of animals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COVID-19</td>
<td>Abbreviation for the coronavirus diseases 2019, a disease caused by a novel (or new) coronavirus called SARS-CoV-2 that has not previously been seen in humans.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epidemic</td>
<td>Affecting or tending to affect a disproportionately large number of individuals within a population, community or region at the same time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exclusion</td>
<td>Keeping a student with certain contagious diseases or symptoms out of school to prevent possible disease spread. Determined by school administrator.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exposed (close contact)</td>
<td>Having been within 6 feet of a confirmed or presumptive COVID-19 case for 15 minutes or more within one day, or having been in contact with the infectious secretions of a confirmed or presumptive COVID-19 case.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Indoor Exception:</strong> in K–12 settings, <em>indoor masked contact between students and/or staff is not considered exposure.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Outdoor Exception:</strong> In the K–12 <em>outdoor setting</em> (e.g., recess, outdoor classrooms), the close contact definition is unlikely to be met, because students are unlikely to have been within 6 feet of a confirmed case for 15 or more minutes. Therefore, these exposures are low risk and unlikely to warrant quarantine. LPHAs have the discretion to require quarantine if the outdoor exposure is deemed to pose a higher risk, as described in the main document above.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isolation</td>
<td>Separates people with a contagious disease from other people to prevent disease spread. Determined by LPHA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LPHA</strong></td>
<td>Local public health authority: a county government, health district or an intergovernmental entity that provides public health services. <a href="#">Directory of Oregon LPHAs</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Outbreak</strong></td>
<td>For the purposes of this document, an outbreak is two or more COVID-19 cases occurring in the same cohort (linked by time and place) in people from different households, suggesting viral spread within the cohort.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pandemic</strong></td>
<td>Occurring over a wide geographic area and affecting an exceptionally high proportion of the population.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Physical distancing</strong></td>
<td>Measures intended to limit the movement of people in order to interrupt the transmission of infectious, contagious diseases.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Presumptive case** | Individual who:  
 - Has at least two of the following COVID-19 symptoms: shortness of breath, cough, fever, new loss of smell or taste; AND  
 - Has not had a positive COVID-19 viral test; AND  
 - Had close contact with a confirmed case in the past 14 days  
 **OR**  
 - Has a positive test result from an at-home test kit  
 **NOTE:** OHA and LPHAs have a more detailed definition that includes things that are not applicable in school settings. |
| **Quarantine** | Separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to monitor whether they become sick and prevent disease spread. |
| **Viral test** | A test for the presence of an active viral infection (e.g., a PCR test or an antigen test). Antibody tests are not viral tests. |