



COVID-19

Steps for Determining Close Contact and Quarantine in K–12 Schools

Updated Feb. 18, 2022

Determine If Someone Is a Close Contact

STEP 1 Is the suspected close contact a student or adult?

STUDENT: Go to [Step 2](#).

ADULT: Go to [Step 8](#).

STEP 2 Did the suspected close contact happen in an indoor classroom or a structured outdoor setting?

YES: Go to [Step 3](#).

NO: Go to [Step 6](#).

STEP 3 Was the student within 3 feet of another student with COVID-19?

YES: Go to [Step 7](#).

NO: Go to [Step 4](#).

STEP 4 Was the student within 3 to 6 feet of another student with COVID-19?

YES: Go to [Step 5](#).

NO: The student is **not** a close contact.

STEP 5 Were both students wearing their masks consistently and correctly?

YES: The student is **not** a close contact.

NO: Go to [Step 7](#).

STEP 6 Was the student within 6 feet of someone with COVID-19?

YES: Go to [Step 7](#).

NO: The student is **not** a close contact.

STEP 7 Was the student in the presence of someone with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more?

<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2022/s0218-covid-19-close-contact.html>

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Students in INDOOR CLASSROOMS and STRUCTURED OUTDOOR SETTINGS

If yes to **all** of the below, the student is a close contact, **regardless of proper mask use**. If no to any, move to the next column.

LESS THAN 3 FEET

Was the student within 3 feet of another student diagnosed with COVID-19?

Has the student been in the presence of a

WITHIN 3–6 FEET

If yes to **all** of the below, the student is a close contact. If no to any, then the student is not a close contact.

Was the student within 3 to 6 feet of another student diagnosed with COVID-19?

Has the student been in the presence of a

Students in NON-CLASSROOM SETTINGS and adults in ALL SCHOOL SETTINGS

If yes to **all** of the below, the person is a close contact, **regardless of proper mask use**. If no to any, the person is not a close contact.

Was the student or adult within 6 feet of someone diagnosed with COVID-19?

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PDF [397 KB, 1 page]

15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period?

YES: The student is a close contact. Go to the [quarantine recommendations below](#).

NO: The student is **not** a close contact.

STEP 8 Did the suspected close contact for the adult happen at school?

YES: Go to [Step 9](#).

NO: The adult may want to learn if they are [considered a close contact](#) based on their suspected exposure outside of school.

STEP 9 Was the adult less than 6 feet away from someone diagnosed with COVID-19 for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period?

YES: The adult is a close contact, regardless of proper mask use. Go to the [quarantine recommendations below](#).

NO: The adult is **not** a close contact.

Quarantine Guidelines and Precautions a Close Contact Should Take

To allow time for students to catch up with the latest recommendations and to minimize disruption to in-person learning, schools may consider forgoing quarantine for students ages 12-17 years who completed their [primary vaccine series](#) but have not yet received all [eligible boosters](#).

All Close Contacts Should Take These Precautions

Regardless of vaccination status, all close contacts should monitor for symptoms and [wear a well-fitting mask](#) around others for 10 days after the last close contact.

If a close contact develops [any COVID-19 symptoms](#), they should [isolate](#), get tested immediately, and continue to isolate if they test positive.

<div>IF CLOSE CONTACT</div> <div>Is NOT up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations</div>	<div>Stay home and quarantine</div> <div>The close contact should stay home and:</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Quarantine for at least 5 days from the date of last close contactGet tested at least 5 days after the last close contactFollow the precautions listed above</div>
<div>IF CLOSE CONTACT</div> <div>IS up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations</div>	<div>No quarantine</div> <div>If they have taken the full series of a COVID-19 vaccine and boosters as recommended, they are up to date.</div> <div>The close contact does not need to quarantine, but should:</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Get tested at least 5 days after the last close contact</div>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Follow the precautions listed above
IF CLOSE CONTACT Had COVID-19 within the past 90 days and recovered	No quarantine The close contact does not need to quarantine. They should speak with a healthcare professional about testing recommendations and follow the precautions listed above