



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

Updated June 9, 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 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.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/K-12-infographic.html>

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Students in INDOOR CLASSROOMS and STRUCTURED OUTDOOR SETTINGS	Students in NON-CLASSROOM SETTINGS and adults in ALL SCHOOL SETTINGS	
<p>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.</p> <p>LESS THAN 3 FEET</p> <p>Was the student within 3 feet of another student diagnosed with COVID-19?</p> <p>Has the student been in the presence of a</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>WITHIN 3–6 FEET</p> <p>Was the student within 3 to 6 feet of another student diagnosed with COVID-19?</p> <p>Has the student been in the presence of a</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>LESS THAN 6 FEET</p> <p>Was the student or adult within 6 feet of someone diagnosed with COVID-19?</p>

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PDF [397 KB, 1 page]

Quarantine Guidelines and Precautions a Close Contact Should Take

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.

IF CLOSE CONTACT

Is NOT up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations

Stay home and quarantine

The close contact should stay home and:

- Quarantine for at least 5 days from the date of last close contact
- [Get tested](#) at least 5 days after the last close contact
- Follow the [precautions listed above](#)

IF CLOSE CONTACT

IS up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations

No quarantine

If they have taken the full series of a COVID-19 vaccine and boosters as recommended, they are up to date.

The close contact does not need to quarantine, but should:

- [Get tested](#) at least 5 days after the last close contact
- 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](#)

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