COVID-19 GUIDANCE
CHILD CARE, PRE-SCHOOL, AND K-12 SCHOOLS

CHILD/STUDENT WITH NEW SYMPTOMS OF ILLNESS
Children/students with symptoms of illness should stay home and test for COVID-19.

- If test is negative, may return if at least 24 hours have passed since fever and symptoms have improved significantly.
- If test is positive, stay at home for 5 days. Isolation can end after Day 5 if symptoms are not present or are resolving and a diagnostic specimen collected on Day 5 or later tests negative. Consistent use of a well fitted face mask while indoors at child care/school is strongly recommended through Day 10. If unable to test or choosing not to test, and symptoms are not present or are resolving, isolation can end after Day 10.

CHILD/STUDENT EXPOSED TO PERSON WITH COVID-19 IN ANY SETTING
If potential exposure occurs at a school setting, parents/caregivers should be notified of the potential exposure.

Children/students with exposure to someone with COVID-19 may continue to take part in all aspects of child care or schooling, including sports and extracurricular activities, unless they develop symptoms or test positive for COVID-19. This includes children/students who have continuous household exposure (live with someone who has COVID-19). It is strongly recommended that exposed children/students wear a well-fitting mask indoors around others for at least 10 days following the date of last exposure, if not already doing so unless they are under age 2. It is recommended that the individual test for COVID-19 5 days after the exposure.

CHILDREN/STUDENTS WHO HAVE TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 IN THE PAST 90 DAYS
Asymptomatic children/students that have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 90 days are not required to quarantine or test for COVID-19 in response to a new COVID-19 exposure. However, if a child develops new symptoms after being exposed to COVID-19, they should quarantine and test.

REPORTING OUTBREAKS TO SCPH
Elementary Schools, Pre-Schools, & Child Care (Single Classroom Cohort)
For schools/grades where students are primarily with the same classroom cohort (e.g. elementary school, pre-school, child care), schools should report outbreaks to SCPH using the online outbreak reporting module when:

- At least 3 students in a classroom cohort are suspected, probable, or confirmed to have COVID-19 within a 14-day period.  
  OR
- At least 10% of the school population are suspected, probable, or confirmed to have COVID-19 within a 14-day period.
Middle/High Schools (Multiple Classroom Cohorts)
For schools/grades where students are part of numerous classroom cohorts (e.g. middle and high school), schools should report outbreaks to SCPH using the online outbreak reporting module when:

- At least 10% of a grade level is suspected, probable, or confirmed to have COVID-19 within a 14-day period.
- OR
- At least 10% of the school population is suspected, probable, or confirmed to have COVID-19 within a 14-day period.
COVID-19 Decision Tree for Child Care, Pre-School, & K-12 Schools

Student or staff has NEW symptoms of illness.

Exclude from school.

Test* for COVID-19.

POSITIVE

Isolation:
Individual must isolate at home. Isolation can end 5 days after symptom onset if:
- at least 24 hours have passed since fever and symptoms have improved significantly
- individual tests negative (preferably antigen) with specimen collected on or after Day 5
- individual consistently wears a well-fitted face mask while indoors at school through Day 10 (strongly recommended for students; required for staff, per Cal/OSHA).

If unable to test, choose not to test, or positive test on or after Day 5, individual may return 10 days after symptom onset (Day 11).

CONTACT NOTIFICATION:
Notify likely contacts (students/teachers in shared classes/spaces, athletic/club teammates, etc.) of possible exposure to someone with COVID-19.

NEGATIVE

Receive an alternative named diagnosis from a health care provider.

May return to school if at least 24 hours have passed since fever and symptoms have improved significantly.

If no test or alternative diagnosis, exclude for 10 days from symptom onset. May return on Day 11 if at least 24 hours have passed since fever and symptoms have improved significantly.

STUDENTS:
Recommend likely contacts monitor for symptoms of illness and test for COVID-19.

STAFF:
Contacts must follow CDPH Quarantine Guidance as required by Cal/OSHA.

* PCR or rapid antigen test are acceptable. Asymptomatic individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 are not required to re-test for 90 days following their initial infection. However, if individuals develop new symptoms following a COVID-19 exposure, they should isolate and test.

July 25, 2022