

# When to Quarantine After Exposure to a Case of COVID-19 (K-12 Schools)

**Is the exposed student/staff member vaccinated?**

**Yes**

**No**

Exposed person is not required to quarantine and can attend both in-person learning and sports/extracurricular activities

**Was the person exposed at school?**

**Yes**

**No**

CDC guidance (8/5/21) suggests getting tested 3-5 days after exposure, correctly wearing masks in school, AND wearing a mask indoors for 14 days or until negative test results are received

Quarantine at home

If individuals were less than 3 feet apart, **were they properly masked?**

**Yes**

**No**

Exposed person may attend in-person learning while monitoring symptoms, wearing a mask consistently, and quarantining outside of school; attending sport/extracurriculars is not permitted  
(per state modified quarantine guidance, 08/2021)

Quarantine at home

**If the individual starts experiencing symptoms, they should get a COVID test and isolate while awaiting results.**

**What is the COVID test result?**

**Negative\***

**Positive\***

Return to school when able, based on school/district policies (i.e. symptom-free or fever-free for 24 hours)

Isolate at home

## COVID-19 Exposure

Exposure is defined as being within 6 feet of a person diagnosed with COVID-19 for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more throughout a 24-hour period starting from two days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, two days prior to test specimen collection) until the infected individual meets criteria for discontinuing home isolation. Per revised guidance, individuals who were within 3–6 feet of a person diagnosed COVID-19 in a K–12 indoor setting are not considered close contacts if both the infected individual and the exposed individual correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time.

## Quarantine

The practice of separating individuals who have had close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 to determine whether they develop symptoms or test positive for the disease. The CDC recommends staying home for 14 days after last exposure. Vaccinated individuals and those who have recovered from COVID-19 within three months do not need to quarantine while asymptomatic.

## Isolation

The practice of separating individuals diagnosed with COVID-19 from others who are not sick to prevent further exposures and/or the spread of the disease. The CDC states isolation can end 10 days after symptom onset and 24 hours after being fever-free with no fever-reducing medications. Other COVID-19 symptoms should also be improving.

Schools should work with local public health officials in executing these steps locally.

[dese.mo.gov/covid19](https://dese.mo.gov/covid19)

\*There will be situations where additional recommendations, testing, and control measures are need. At-home tests will not be accepted for decisions on isolation and quarantine recommendations.