

Centers for Disease
Control
Recommendations
for Schools

July 9, 2021



CDC Recommendations

1. Students benefit from **in-person learning**, and safely returning to in-person instruction in the fall 2021 is a priority.
2. **Vaccination** is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. Promoting vaccination can help schools safely return to in-person learning as well as extracurricular activities and sports.
3. **Masks** should be worn indoors by all individuals (age 2 and older) who are not fully vaccinated. Consistent and correct mask use by people who are not fully vaccinated is especially important indoors and in crowded settings, when physical distancing cannot be maintained.

CDC Recommendations

4. CDC recommends schools maintain at least **3 feet of physical distance** between students within classrooms, combined with indoor mask wearing by people who are not fully vaccinated, to reduce transmission risk. When it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of at least 3 feet, such as when schools cannot fully re-open while maintaining these distances, it is especially important to layer multiple other prevention strategies, such as **indoor masking**.

5. Screening testing, ventilation, handwashing and respiratory etiquette, **staying home when sick** and getting tested, contact tracing in combination with **quarantine** and isolation, and **cleaning and disinfection** are also important layers of prevention to keep schools safe.

CDC Recommendations

6. Students, teachers, and staff should **stay home when they have signs of any infectious illness and be referred to their healthcare provider** for testing and care.
7. Many schools serve children under the age of 12 who are not eligible for vaccination at this time. Therefore, this guidance emphasizes implementing **layered prevention strategies** (e.g., using multiple prevention strategies together consistently) to protect people who are not fully vaccinated, including students, teachers, staff, and other members of their households.
8. COVID-19 prevention strategies remain critical to protect people, including students, teachers, and staff, who are not fully vaccinated, especially in areas of **moderate-to-high community transmission levels**.
9. Localities should monitor community transmission, vaccination coverage, screening testing, and occurrence of outbreaks to guide decisions on the level of **layered prevention strategies** (e.g., physical distancing, screening testing).



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

— ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN ANTONIO —

Department of Catholic Schools Protocols
Updated April 21, 2021

Still in the process of finalizing the quarantine protocols for 2021-2022

Positive Case
Protocols
Remain the
Same

10-Day
Quarantine

CONFIRMED OR SUSPECTED COVID-19

Test-
confirmed
COVID-19

*ANY INDIVIDUAL
(teachers, staff,
students, volunteers or
other campus visitors)*

Experiences
the symptoms
of COVID-19

May return to school when **ALL THREE** of the
following criteria are met:

- At least three days (**72 hours**) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
- AND**
- The individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath);
- AND**
- At least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared.



Close Contact Protocols for Unvaccinated Remain the Same 7 to 10-Day Quarantine

CLOSE CONTACT

This document refers to "close contact" with an individual who is test-confirmed to have COVID-19. The definition of close contact is evolving with our understanding of COVID-19, and individual scenarios should be determined by an appropriate public health agency. In general, close contact is defined as:

a. being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on); or b. being within 6 feet for a largely uninterrupted or sustained extended contact period throughout the course of a day of approximately 15 minutes; however, additional factors like case/contact masking (i.e., both the infectious individual and the potential close contact have been consistently and properly masked), ventilation, presence of dividers, and case symptomology may affect this determination.

Either (a) or (b) defines close contact if it occurred during the infectious period of the case, defined as two days prior to symptom onset to 10 days after symptom onset. In the case of asymptomatic individuals who are test-confirmed with COVID-19, the infectious period is defined as two days prior to the confirming test and continuing for 10 days following the confirming test.

ANY INDIVIDUAL (teachers, staff, students, volunteers or other campus visitors)

Who have had close contact with someone who is test-confirmed to have COVID-19 (direct exposure OR being 6 feet for 15+ minutes in the time the infected individual was infectious)

MUST stay at home through the 10-day incubation period, beginning 2 days prior to symptoms OR for asymptomatic 2 days prior to positive test)

As an alternative, the quarantine period can end after Day 7 with a negative COVID-19 test taken on Day 7 and if no symptoms were reported during daily monitoring. Catholic schools should screen individuals after the incubation period has concluded, and if the individual did not experience COVID-19 symptoms during that period, the individual can be allowed back on campus.

if individual displayed symptoms of COVID-19 during the incubation period, they may return to school when **all three** of the following criteria are met:

- At least three days (72 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications)
- The individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
- At least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared.



Close Contact for Vaccinated Depends on Symptoms

Quarantine Guidance

For Vaccinated Individuals Exposed to Positive Case

Vaccinated persons with an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 are not required to quarantine *if they meet all of the following criteria:*

1. Are fully vaccinated (i.e., ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine).
2. Have remained asymptomatic since the current COVID-19 exposure

Vaccinated individuals are *required* to produce their card or other proof of vaccination.

All individuals, *including those who have been vaccinated*, must continue to follow mask protocols and other COVID-19 mitigation efforts that have kept our school communities safer.

