

Alexandria Health Department

Summary of COVID-19 Guidance Changes/Updates for Schools & Daycares

June 24, 2022

Isolation & Quarantine

- Appendix C, D, G, and G.1 have been updated to reflect that close contacts *who are not up to date* on their COVID-19 vaccines are recommended to quarantine following an exposure.
- VDH and AHD recommend quarantine following an exposure to COVID-19 for those who *a) have not tested positive for the virus in the past 6 months (changed from 90 days) or b) are [not up to date](#) on their COVID-19 vaccines.*

Testing

- Appendix C, D, G, and G.1 have been updated to reflect that VDH now recommends that only close contacts who *a) have not tested positive for the virus in the past 6 months (changed from 90 days) or b) are [not up to date](#) on their COVID-19 vaccines* test on Day 5 following an exposure even if they do not have symptoms.
- Close contacts who develop symptoms should get tested immediately, regardless of vaccination status.

Masking

- Appendix C, D, G, and G.1 have been updated to reflect that VDH now recommends that only close contacts *who a) have not tested positive for the virus in the past 6 months (changed from 90 days) or b) are [not up to date](#) on their COVID-19 vaccines* mask following an exposure.

FAQs

- Question 4 has been added to illustrate booster recommendation allowances for students 5-11yo.
- Question 16 has been updated to illustrate VDH/AHD quarantine guidance changes.

General

- Links in the *IX. Additional Resources* section have been updated and dates have been removed.
- Appendix A has been updated to encourage a variety of individual prevention strategies as needed following an exposure.
- Appendix B has been removed due to redundancies.
- VDH/AHD guidance may differ from [CDC](#) quarantine guidance.

June 13, 2022

Isolation & Quarantine

- Appendix J has been updated to reflect June and July 2022 dates. Interactive quarantine and isolation calculators are available through both [VDH](#) and [CDC](#).
- Appendix D has been updated to reflect quarantine guidance in light of booster recommendations for younger students. *Schools/daycares decide whether to require kids 5-11yo to be up to date on their COVID-19 vaccines to forgo quarantine after an exposure.*
- Prioritization guidance has been added under *I. Implement Layered Prevention Measures (Part 8)*.

Outbreaks

- Appendix L has been added. This document is a template notification letter school/daycare administrators may use in response to outbreaks in school/daycare.
- The School Response Team phone line hours (for questions and to report outbreaks) have been adjusted to end at 4:30pm each business day.

Vaccination

- Appendix D has been updated to reflect booster recommendations for kids 5-11yo.

Testing

- Additional testing resources and opportunities have been added under *I. Implement Layered Prevention Measures (Part 4)*.

Physical Distancing

- Language regarding CDC recommendations for 6 ft distancing has been removed.

FAQs

- Appendix E has been updated with additional answers to some frequently asked questions (see Questions 14, 15).

Ventilation

- The CDC's Ventilation tool has been added under *I. Implement Layered Prevention Measures (Part 5)*.
- CDC guidance regarding mealtimes has been removed (*VII. Know how to make mealtimes as safe as possible*).

May 9, 2022

Spanish Translation

- Appendix K, which is a short summary of how Test to Stay may function in daycare settings, has been translated into [Spanish](#).

April 11, 2022

Test To Stay

- Test to Stay guidance has been added for daycare settings (see Appendix K). The complete details can be reviewed on [VDH's website](#).

Isolation & Quarantine

- Appendix J (AHD's quarantine calculator) has been updated with April and May dates.
- A link to VDH's [isolation and quarantine calculator](#) has been added to Part VIII. Additional Resources under "General Guidance" and to Appendix J.
- A link to the CDC's [quarantine and isolation calculator](#) has been added to Part VIII. Additional Resources under "General Guidance."

Template Line Lists & Letters

- The handbook and printable line list templates from Appendix I are available [here](#).
- A template letter for close contacts *with an option to participate in Test to Stay* instead of traditional quarantine has been added (Appendix G.1).

March 4, 2022

Shortened Isolation & Quarantine Periods

- People who have COVID-19 (cases) should isolate for **at least 5 days**
 - Day 0 is the day their symptoms began **or** the day they got tested
 - Cases can return to school/daycare on Days 6-10 **if** they feel better, have been fever free for at least 24 hours, and are able to mask
- People exposed to COVID-19 (close contacts) should quarantine for **at least 5 days**
 - Day 0 is the date they were last exposed to COVID-19
 - People who are up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccines do **not** need to quarantine, but they should wear a mask and monitor symptoms for 10 days.

Fully-Vaccinated vs. Up-to-Date

- Schools may choose whether they will require students ages 12-17 to be [up-to-date](#) or simply fully-vaccinated to forgo quarantine requirements.
 - AHD encourages everyone to stay [up-to-date](#) with their COVID-19 vaccines.

Reporting Requirements

- Schools & daycares are no longer required to report individual COVID-19 cases to AHD.
- Schools & daycares **are required to report** clusters of **3 or more** COVID-19 cases to AHD using the [COVID-19 Outbreak Reporting Form](#).

Masking Recommendations & Requirements

- Universal masking is recommended when [COVID-19 Community Level](#) is "High."
- [Senate Bill 739](#) states that the parents of children enrolled in public schools or any **school-based** early childhood care and education program **may choose** if their child wears a mask while on school property.
 - Private schools and daycares should ask their legal council if/how Senate Bill 739 applies to their programs.
- The CDC no longer requires masking on school buses.
- Schools/daycares **may require masks on Days 6-10** of isolation and quarantine.
- When masks cannot be worn (e.g., while eating or sleeping) physical distance should be maximized to the greatest extent possible. Inability to distance 6 ft during meals and naps should **not** preclude children from in-person instruction or childcare.

Case Investigation & Contact Tracing

- AHD encourages schools & daycares to continue to identify COVID-19 cases and notify close contacts of exposures for all community levels.
- The [close contact exemption of K-12 students](#) **does not apply** if students are unmasked.

COVID-19 Community Level

- Schools and Daycares should consider the current [COVID-19 Community Level](#) when adjusting layered prevention strategies.

Creative Solutions

- AHD recommends **best practices** for stopping the spread of COVID-19.
- AHD recognizes that different programs have varying levels of risk tolerance and encourages administrators to adopt creative solutions to meet their community's unique emotional, educational, and developmental needs.

VDH Resources

- [Flowchart for Parents: What to do if my child is ill or exposed?](#)
- [Algorithm for Evaluating a Child with COVID-19 Symptoms or Exposure](#)