

COVID-19 School Guidance Updates

Updated 1/12/2022

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KDHE Recommended Changes to School Testing Guidance Document

Previous Recommendation	Updated Recommendation
QUARANTINE	
Shortened quarantine period of 7 or 10 days if a county's Local Health Officer allows.	Shortened quarantine period of 5 days followed by continued masking with a well-fitted mask while around others for 5 days

Available at: <https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/DocumentCenter/View/2060/K-12-COVID-19-Testing--Vaccine-Options?bidId=>

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Previous Recommendation

Close contact

Being within 6 feet of the person for **10 consecutive minutes** or more in a 24-hour period.

No EXCEPTION

Updated Recommendation

Being within 6 feet of the person for a **cumulative total of 15 minutes** or more over a 24-hour period.

EXCEPTION for students in the K-12 classroom setting or a structured outdoor setting where mask use can be observed, the close contact definition EXCLUDES students who were between 3-6 feet of a person with COVID-19 if BOTH the person with COVID-19 and the close contact correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time (NOTE: the exception does not apply to teachers, staff or other adults in the indoor classroom setting).

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Previous Recommendation

Updated Recommendation

DEFINITION OF SUSCEPTIBLE

Persons considered **SUSCEPTIBLE** (NOT IMMUNE) to COVID-19 disease included:

- Unvaccinated/not fully vaccinated
- Persons who do not have evidence of recent COVID-19 infection **in the last 6 months.**

Persons considered **SUSCEPTIBLE** (NOT immune) to COVID-19 disease includes:

- Persons over age 18 not up to date on recommended COVID-19 vaccines (have not received their boosters)
- Unvaccinated/not fully vaccinated persons
- Persons who do NOT have evidence of recent COVID-19 infection **in the last 90 days.**

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Previous Recommendation

Updated Recommendation

WHEN TO BEGIN QUARANTINE/TTS FOR SUSCEPTIBLE CLOSE CONTACTS

Begin Day 1 of their 7 to 10-day home quarantine the day after their exposure and can attend school during their 7 to 10-day home quarantine.

Begin Day 1 of their 5-day home quarantine the day after their exposure and can attend school during their 5-day home quarantine.

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Previous Recommendation

Updated Recommendation

TESTING CADENCE

Serial testing using rapid antigen test:
Test daily through at least day 7
(minimum of 3 times).

Test upon notification of exposure and then
every other day through day 7 (minimum of 3
times with one test occurring on day 5 or later).

Serial testing using a rapid PCR test:
Test every other day through at least day 7.

Test upon notification of exposure and then
every other day through day 7 (minimum of 2
times with one test occurring on day 5 or later).

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Previous Recommendation

Updated Recommendation

ISOLATION PERIOD

Isolate at home for a minimum of 10 days and discontinue isolation IF fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication AND there has been a significant improvement in symptoms.

No test required to return to school.

Isolate at home for 5 days if person is asymptomatic or if symptomatic IF fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and symptoms are resolving, **followed by 5 days of consistent and correct masking** when around others.

Schools can consider requiring a negative antigen test to return to school.

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- Updated guidance now allows for a modification in the number of tests if a TTS Program is overwhelmed with the volume of testing due to increased cases/contacts.
 - Test close contacts upon notification of exposure and one additional time between Days 5 and 7 after exposure.
- For school districts or local health departments that do not have a Test to Stay Program to allow in-person learning during quarantine, testing susceptible close contacts upon return to school from 5-day quarantine on day 6 with a PCR test is now recommended.