

# Planning for COVID-19 Scenarios in Schools

## A Toolkit for School Leaders and Local Public Health Authorities

*Updated September 9, 2021*

Any substantial changes in this version have been marked up in *green italics* to help track changes. The use of italics and a different color is for meeting accessibility requirements and does not signal any specific emphasis or importance.

## Introduction

This resource was prepared by the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) with additional input from local public health authorities (LPHA), school nurses, and school leaders to support school staff's ability to respond well to COVID-19 related illness events. This document outlines some critical steps and offers an overview of decision points, but it does not replace medical expertise, epidemiologist knowledge, or practical solutions in local schools. Each school leader will need to continually evaluate the response to outbreak protocols, update plans, and balance health and safety with core instructional needs for schools.

## Purpose of this Toolkit

This toolkit is designed to support school leaders and local public health authorities in their shared role in responding to COVID-19-related illness events in schools. This toolkit details specific scenarios and immediate action steps required to respond and communicate when a student or staff member:

- Is exposed to a confirmed or presumptive case of COVID-19
- Becomes ill with COVID-19 symptoms
- Tests positive for COVID-19
- Tests negative for COVID-19
- Has not been tested for COVID-19

Each scenario requires action on behalf of the school and close collaboration with the LPHA. The LPHA has authority to make public health decisions, including recommendations for or against isolation and quarantine. This guide is not intended to be the final word for all possible situations; in some situations, an LPHA may make recommendations that differ from those contained in this guide.

To help school leaders, [a Communications Toolkit has been created](#) that includes customizable communication templates, including letters and notifications to families, talking points and a press release to use with the media, and other tools aligned to the scenarios presented here.

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## Using This Toolkit

There is no one correct way to access the information in this toolkit. It is intended to be a resource that school leaders can access and use as the need emerges. However, given the highly technical information contained in this toolkit, being able to apply this guidance in a timely manner as the need arises requires that school leaders:

1. Carefully read this document in its entirety before the need to utilize it.
2. Review each scenario and consider how that scenario would unfold, if realized in their local context. Consider:
  - a. How well the current operational plan supports the school's response in this scenario and if updates are needed;
  - b. How this scenario would impact teaching and learning within the school; and
  - c. [Which communication tool\(s\) would be used](#) and how/how much they would need to be adapted prior to use.
3. Help your staff to understand the content in this toolkit prior to it being needed. The additional stresses related to having positive cases and exposed person(s) in your school community will make it hard for staff to access this information in real time without prior knowledge and understanding.

## About Scenarios

Carefully read through the scenarios and terms in this document. Each scenario is an example event that involves a school and LPHA's response to a COVID-19 illness at a school. The scenarios share required steps for the school leaders as well as the LPHA.

**Exposure Scenarios:** Refers to a student or staff member exposed to a person who is a confirmed or presumptive case of COVID-19.

**Becomes Ill Scenarios:** Refers to a student or staff member who becomes ill with COVID-19 symptoms, either after no known contact with a person with COVID-19 *or* after close contact with a person with COVID-19.

**Tests Positive Scenarios:** Refers to one or more student or staff member having a positive result on a COVID-19 viral test, including the action necessary if in the same or different cohorts.

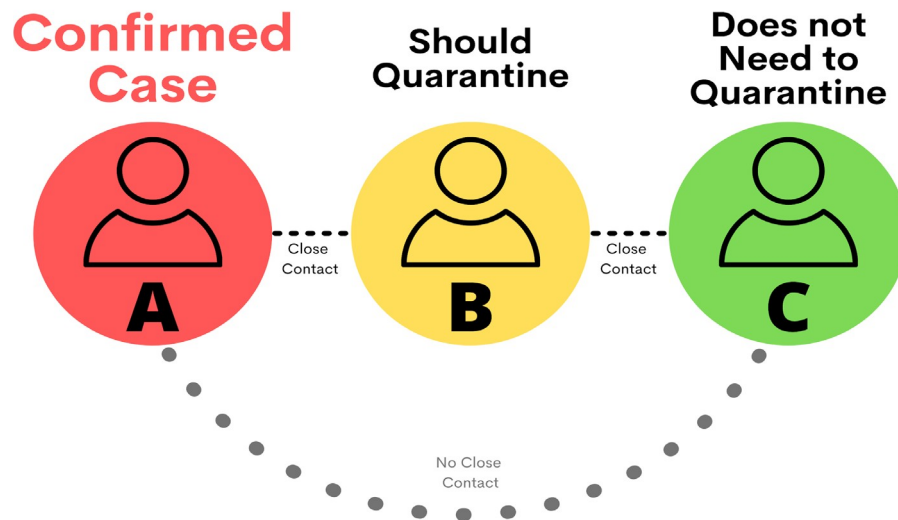
**Tests Negative Scenarios:** Refers to an ill student or staff member who has a negative result on a COVID-19 viral test.

**Has Not Been Tested Scenarios:** Refers to a student or staff member who has not been tested in response to specific events.

# Common Protocols

Generally, the closer a person is to a confirmed COVID-19 case, the greater the need for quarantine:

## General Quarantine Protocol



**Figure 1.** General Quarantine Protocol  
A PDF of this figure is available [here](#).

As an overall framework:

- People who have COVID-19 **should isolate** for 10 days after their symptoms started ( or, if they have no symptoms, for 10 days after the test date) and 24 hours after any fever has resolved without the use of fever-reducing medicine and other symptoms are improving; follow all instructions from the LPHA.
- Any person who has been in close contact with a person who has COVID-19 **should quarantine** at home. Although a 14-day quarantine is the safest option to prevent the spread of COVID-19 to others, the LPHA may recommend shortened quarantine periods in some instances; follow all instructions from the LPHA. If symptoms develop during the quarantine period, the person should isolate and seek testing. The following are exceptions to quarantine:
  - Close contacts who have been fully immunized with a COVID-19 vaccine according to the ACIP schedule (received both doses of a two-dose vaccine or one dose of a single-dose vaccine) and are at least 14 days beyond completion of the vaccine series at the time of their exposure are not required to quarantine. Fully immunized close contacts should still monitor themselves for symptoms of COVID-19 during the 14 days after exposure, and if symptoms develop they should isolate and seek testing.
  - Close contacts who themselves had a previous confirmed or presumptive COVID-19 case (verified by a positive viral COVID-19 test and/or LPHA) and have

completed their isolation are not required to quarantine if the new exposure happened within 90 days of symptom onset or first positive test, whichever is earlier, for their original case.

- Any person who has been in close contact with someone who was exposed to COVID-19 **does not need to quarantine**. That is, quarantine is only recommended for people who have close contact with a case (confirmed or presumptive as determined by the LPHA), not close contact with a contact (an exposed person without COVID-19 symptoms and no positive test result)

Exposure definition update:

OHA has updated its exposure (close contact) definition for K–12 settings in alignment with CDC guidance released in July 2021. There is now an exception to the exposure definition (having been within 6 feet of a confirmed or presumptive COVID-19 case for 15 minutes or more within one day) for the K–12 indoor classroom setting: **students** who were within 3 to 6 feet of someone with COVID-19 where both students were engaged in consistent and correct use of well-fitting masks **and** other K–12 school prevention strategies (such as universal and correct mask use, physical distancing, increased ventilation) were in place are not considered exposed. **This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults.**

## Identify Area of Responsibility and Next Steps outlined in Scenarios

The scenario tables offer different examples with critical steps for schools and LPHAs. The roles and responsibilities, including communication protocols, from each entity (the school district and LPHA) will need to include partnership with the LPHA. [A list of local public health authorities by county is available here.](#) School and classroom sizes are highly variable across Oregon, and cohort sizes also vary. Schools and LPHAs should consider the sizes of potentially affected cohorts when determining if closures are necessary. **Schools should strive to maintain small “stable cohorts,” as this will minimize schoolwide disruptions when a case of COVID-19 is identified in a school.**

The response to a case of COVID-19 in the school setting requires a collaboration among many community partners. The following guidance tables categorize general “involved groups” in the response, in order to fit as many school settings as possible. It is recognized that the tables do not capture the community-level partners that may be critical in supporting public health. This includes the active community partners that support Oregon’s schools, school districts, LPHAs, and the Oregon Health Authority.

The scenario tables below are intended to be a guide and may not cover every possible situation. In some cases, the local public health authority (LPHA) may make decisions that differ from the scenarios. LPHAs have the authority to make exceptions or take additional measures as needed to protect the public’s health.

## 2021-22 Communications Toolkit

School and district leaders are encouraged to [use the tools linked on this page](#) to communicate with staff, school boards, students, families, the media and their community about the 2021-22 school year. The tools are customizable, and intended to serve as a starting point for school leaders to modify as needed to communicate with their community.

# Symptoms of COVID-19

People with COVID-19 can have a wide range of symptoms, ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2–14 days after exposure to the virus. The “primary” COVID-19 symptoms require exclusion from school. The “non-primary” COVID-19 symptoms can be seen with many other illnesses, in addition to COVID-19. The non-primary symptoms do not always require exclusion. When feasible, ill students and staff with any primary COVID-19 symptoms should be encouraged to seek viral testing. If a student has non-primary symptoms that persist for more than one day, the parent should consider evaluation by the child’s healthcare provider who can determine if viral testing is advised. If a staff member has non-primary symptoms that persist for more than one day, the staff member should consider evaluation by their healthcare provider who can determine if viral testing is advised.

## **Primary COVID-19 symptoms:**

- Cough
- Temperature of 100.4°F or higher
- Chills
- Shortness of breath
- Difficulty breathing
- New loss of taste or smell

## **Non-primary COVID-19 symptoms:**

- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Nasal congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

## **Presumptive case\***

Individual who:

- Has at least two of the following COVID-19 symptoms: shortness of breath, cough, fever, new loss of smell or taste;
- Has not had a positive COVID-19 viral test; AND
- Had close contact with a confirmed case in the past 14 days

\* For the purposes of this document. Note that OHA and LPHAs have a more detailed definition that includes things that are not applicable in school settings.

# Scenarios

The following table summarizes the scenarios in the tables that follow.

Click on the underlined scenario number to go to the scenario table that describes actions required by involved persons. The information in the following scenarios can also be accessed in a different flowchart format [here](#).

Scenario	Description
<a href="#"><u>Scenario 1a</u></a>	A student or staff member has been <b>exposed to a person with confirmed or presumptive COVID-19</b> <u>within their household</u> . The student or staff member is <u>not</u> currently showing symptoms.
<a href="#"><u>Scenario 1b</u></a>	A student or staff member has been <b>exposed to a person with confirmed or presumptive COVID-19</b> <u>outside of their household</u> . The student or staff member is <u>not</u> currently showing symptoms.
<a href="#"><u>Scenario 2a</u></a>	A student or staff member <b>becomes ill</b> with primary COVID-19 symptoms (cough, temperature of 100.4 °F or higher, chills, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, or new loss of taste or smell). Ill person has <u>no known COVID-19 contacts</u> in the past 14 days.
<a href="#"><u>Scenario 2b</u></a>	A student or staff member <b>becomes ill</b> with <del>two or more</del> primary COVID-19 symptoms. Ill person was in <u>close contact</u> with someone who had confirmed COVID-19 in the past 14 days.
<a href="#"><u>Scenario 3a</u></a>	An ill student or staff member has a <b>negative</b> COVID-19 viral test and has <u>no known COVID-19 contacts</u> in the past 14 days.
<a href="#"><u>Scenario 3b</u></a>	An ill student or staff member with <del>two or more</del> primary COVID-19 symptoms has a <b>negative</b> COVID-19 viral test. Ill person was in <u>close contact</u> with someone who had confirmed COVID-19 in the past 14 days.
<a href="#"><u>Scenario 4a</u></a>	An ill student or staff member <b>has not been tested</b> with a COVID-19 viral test. Ill person has <u>no known COVID-19 contacts</u> in the past 14 days.
<a href="#"><u>Scenario 4b</u></a>	An ill student or staff member with <del>two or more</del> primary COVID-19 symptoms <b>has not been tested</b> with a COVID-19 viral test, and a clear alternative <u>non-respiratory diagnosis is not identified</u> . Ill person was in <u>close contact</u> with someone who had confirmed COVID-19 in the past 14 days.
<a href="#"><u>Scenario 4c</u></a>	An ill student or staff member with primary COVID-19 symptoms <b>has not been tested</b> with a COVID-19 viral test, and a clear <u>non-respiratory diagnosis is identified</u> as the cause of illness. Ill person was in <u>close contact</u> with someone who had confirmed COVID-19 in the past 14 days.
<a href="#"><u>Scenario 5</u></a>	<b>One student or staff</b> member has a <b>positive</b> COVID-19 viral test
<a href="#"><u>Scenario 6</u></a>	<b>Two or more people</b> within <u>same cohort</u> have <b>positive</b> COVID-19 viral tests within 14 days
<a href="#"><u>Scenario 7</u></a>	<b>Two or more people</b> in <u>different cohorts</u> have <b>positive</b> COVID-19 viral tests within 14 days



**Scenario 1a.** A student or staff member\* has been **exposed to a person with confirmed or presumptive COVID-19** within their household. The student or staff member is not currently showing symptoms.

Involved persons	Action
School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Send individual home (if not home already).</li> <li>• Record the date school became aware and excluded the individual.</li> <li>• Student must be offered instruction under <i>remote learning</i> while quarantined.</li> <li>• Offer COVID-19 testing at school if available.</li> </ul>
Exposed person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quarantine at home, following LPHA instructions. If additional household members become ill with COVID-19, or if the exposed person cannot avoid continued close contact, the total duration of quarantine may need to be longer. See CDC for <a href="#">quarantine scenario examples</a>.</li> <li>• If exposed person becomes ill during quarantine, see <a href="#">Scenario 2b</a>.</li> </ul>
Household members, including siblings (if exposed person is a student)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other household members should also quarantine* at home, following LPHA instructions. If additional household members become ill with COVID-19, or if the exposed person cannot avoid continued close contact, the total duration of quarantine may need to be longer. See CDC for <a href="#">quarantine scenario examples</a>.</li> <li>• If an exposed household member becomes ill during quarantine, see <a href="#">Scenario 2b</a>.</li> </ul>

\* The actions listed here do not apply if the student or staff member is fully vaccinated. See exceptions to quarantine requirement for fully vaccinated people and people who previously had COVID-19, page 4

**Scenario 1b.** A student or staff member\* has been **exposed to a person with confirmed or presumptive COVID-19** outside of their household. The student or staff member is not currently showing symptoms.

Involved persons	Action
School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Send individual home (if not home already).</li> <li>• Record the date school became aware and excluded the individual.</li> <li>• Student must be offered <i>remote learning</i> instruction while quarantined.</li> <li>• Offer COVID-19 testing at school if available</li> </ul>
Exposed person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quarantine at home, following LPHA instructions. If exposed person develops COVID-19 symptoms during quarantine, see <a href="#">Scenario 2b</a>.</li> </ul>
Household members, including siblings (if exposed person is a student)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unless household members* were also exposed to the person with confirmed COVID-19, they may continue school attendance as long as the exposed person remains healthy.</li> </ul>

\* The actions listed here do not apply if the student or staff member is fully vaccinated. See exceptions to quarantine requirement for fully vaccinated people and people who previously had COVID-19, page 4

**Scenario 2a.** A student or staff member **becomes ill** with primary COVID-19 symptoms (cough, temperature of 100.4°F or higher, chills, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, or new loss of taste or smell). Ill person has no known COVID-19 contacts in the past 14 days.

Involved persons	Action
<b>School</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If student or staff member is currently on school grounds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Isolate ill person following <a href="#">RSSL 1i</a>. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Offer COVID-19 testing at school if available.</li> <li>▪ Send ill person home.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Record the symptoms reported or observed, and the date school became aware and excluded the individual.</li> <li>• Student must be offered instruction under <i>remote learning</i> while isolated; any other students in the household who require quarantine (see below) must also be offered instruction under <i>remote learning</i>.</li> </ul>
<b>Ill person</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek COVID-19 testing. If individual does not have a healthcare provider and needs assistance finding a testing site, use the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) testing map to find the closest testing location: <a href="https://govstatus.egov.com/or-oha-covid-19-testing">https://govstatus.egov.com/or-oha-covid-19-testing</a> or call 211.</li> <li>• If the ill person has a negative COVID-19 viral test, see <a href="#">Scenario 3a</a></li> <li>• If the ill person has not been tested for COVID-19, see <a href="#">Scenario 4a</a></li> <li>• If the ill person has a positive COVID-19 viral test, see <a href="#">Scenario 5</a></li> </ul>
<b>Household members, including siblings (if ill person is a student)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See relevant guidance mentioned above (Scenario 3a, 4a, or 5) to determine whether household members need to quarantine.</li> </ul>

**Scenario 2b.** A student or staff member **becomes ill** with ~~two or more~~ primary COVID-19 symptoms (cough, temperature of 100.4 °F or higher, chills, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, or new loss of taste or smell). Ill person was in close contact with someone who had confirmed COVID-19 in the past 14 days.

Involved persons	Action
<b>School</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If student or staff member is currently on school grounds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Isolate ill person following <a href="#">RSSL 1i</a>.</li> <li>○ Offer COVID-19 testing at school if available.</li> <li>○ Send ill person home.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The ill person may be a “presumptive case,” due to their symptoms and recent contact with a COVID-19 case.</li> <li>• Record the symptoms reported or observed, and the date school became aware/excluded the individual.</li> <li>• Student must be offered instruction under <i>remote learning</i> while isolated; any other students in the household who require quarantine (see below) must also be offered instruction under <i>remote learning</i>.</li> </ul>
<b>Ill person</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek COVID-19 testing. If individual does not have a healthcare provider and needs assistance finding a testing site, use the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) testing map to find the closest testing location: <a href="https://govstatus.egov.com/or-oha-covid-19-testing">https://govstatus.egov.com/or-oha-covid-19-testing</a> or call 211.</li> <li>• If the ill person has a negative COVID-19 viral test, see <a href="#">Scenario 3b</a></li> <li>• If the ill person has not been tested for COVID-19, see <a href="#">Scenario 4b</a></li> <li>• If the ill person has a positive COVID-19 viral test, see <a href="#">Scenario 5</a></li> </ul>
<b>Household members, including siblings (if ill person is a student)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the ill person is determined by the LPHA to be a presumptive case, all household members must quarantine* at home, following LPHA instructions. Refer to <a href="#">Scenario 1a</a> for details.</li> </ul>

\* See exceptions to quarantine requirement for fully vaccinated people and people who previously had COVID-19,  
page 4

**Scenario 3a.** An ill student or staff member has a **negative** COVID-19 viral test and has no known COVID-19 contacts in the past 14 days.

Involved persons	Action
School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Send individual home (if not home already) if they have any symptom(s) listed under “Symptom-Based Exclusion Guidelines” in <a href="#">Communicable Disease Guidance for Schools</a></li> <li>Student must be offered instruction under <i>remote learning</i> while isolated.</li> </ul>
Ill person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Isolate at home until 24 hours after fever is resolved, without use of fever-reducing medicine, <b>and</b> symptoms are improving.</li> </ul>
Household members, including siblings (if ill person is a student)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Household members without symptoms may continue school attendance.</li> </ul>

**Scenario 3b.** An ill student or staff member with ~~two or more~~ primary COVID-19 symptoms (cough, temperature of 100.4 °F or higher, chills, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, or new loss of taste or smell) has a **negative** COVID-19 viral test. Ill person was in close contact with someone who had confirmed COVID-19 in the past 14 days.

Involved persons	Action
School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Send individual home (if not home already). The ill person may be a “presumptive case,” due to their symptoms and recent contact with a COVID-19 case.</li> <li>• School nurse or designated staff contact LPHA to verify case and to begin collaboration on contact tracing.</li> <li>• If LPHA verifies that ill person is a presumptive case, use Common Communication protocol to notify class/cohort/staff that LPHA is aware of COVID-19 case, and will assist in determining and notifying exposed individuals.</li> <li>• Document on cohort logs when 6 feet physical distancing (or 3 feet with consistent mask use by all involved students)* was not maintained during school day.</li> <li>• Provide cohort logs to LPHA to assist with identifying exposed individuals.</li> <li>• If LPHA determines an entire cohort requires quarantine, follow Common Communication protocol.</li> <li>• Student should be offered remote instruction while excluded; any other students who require quarantine (see below) must also be offered instruction under <i>remote learning</i>.</li> </ul>
Ill person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Even though a COVID-19 test was negative, the ill person may be considered a presumptive case because of symptoms and recent close contact; the negative viral test may be a false negative result.</li> <li>• If LPHA determines that ill person is a presumptive case, ill person should isolate at home for 10 days since symptoms first appeared <b>and</b> until 24 hours after fever is resolved, without use of fever-reducing medicine <b>and</b> other symptoms are improving.</li> <li>• If LPHA determines that ill person is <b>not</b> a presumptive case, <b>this person requires quarantine*</b>, due to recent exposure to COVID-19 case. Person must quarantine at home, following LPHA instructions (refer to <u>Scenario 1a</u>) <b>and</b> meet applicable return-to-school guidance based on their symptoms or diagnosis.</li> </ul>
Local public health authority (LPHA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Verify that ill person is a presumptive case (i.e., they meet symptom criteria and they were exposed to a confirmed case). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fully vaccinated people are at much lower risk of COVID-19 than others, but there is still a risk of vaccine breakthrough cases. Therefore, vaccination status does not rule out COVID-19.</li> <li>○ If ill person does not meet case criteria, then handle as a contact and do not proceed with items below; inform school and ill person.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Work with school to review cohort logs to identify exposed individuals.</li> <li>• Determine whether 6-feet (or 3 feet with consistent mask use by all involved students)* physical distancing was consistently maintained during school day. Identify exposed contacts.</li> <li>• If LPHA is unable to verify who was exposed and who was unexposed (6 feet distancing was consistently maintained, etc.), quarantine the entire cohort, except for those who are fully vaccinated.*</li> <li>• If student rides school bus or other school district transportation (not public</li> </ul>



	<p>transit), LPHA should attempt to determine exposure based on bus seating/proximity. Determine whether 6-feet* physical distancing was consistently maintained during bus ride. Mask use is mandatory on school buses per federal order, but LPHA should still determine whether students were consistently masked during the ride. If LPHA is unable to determine exposures <b>and</b> bus ride is &gt;15 minutes, all students on bus should be considered an exposed cohort.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Notify exposed contacts to initiate quarantine period.</li></ul>
<b>School District Superintendent or Executive Leadership</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Collaborate with LPHA to determine if cohort quarantine is indicated.</li><li>• Use Common Communication protocol when communicating decision to quarantine the cohort.</li></ul>
<b>Exposed persons</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Refer to <a href="#">Scenario 1a</a>.</li><li>•</li></ul>
<b>Household members, including siblings (if ill person is a student)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All household members must quarantine* at home, following LPHA instructions. Refer to <a href="#">Scenario 1a</a> for details.</li></ul>

\* See exceptions to 6-feet exposure criterion for masked students and quarantine requirement for fully vaccinated people and people who previously had COVID-19, page 4

**Scenario 4a.** An ill student or staff member **has not been tested** with a COVID-19 viral test. Ill person has no known COVID-19 contacts in the past 14 days.

Involved persons	Action
School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If ill student or staff member is currently on school grounds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Offer COVID-19 testing at school if available.</li> <li>◦ Send individual home.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>If the ill person has one or more primary COVID-19 symptoms</b>, exclude* from school for 10 days after symptoms first appeared <b>and</b> until 24 hours after fever is resolved, without use of fever-reducing medicine, <b>and</b> other symptoms are improving. If a negative COVID-19 viral test result is later obtained, then see scenario 3a; student may return to school per “Symptom-Based Exclusion Guidelines” in <u>Communicable Disease Guidance for Schools</u>.</li> <li>• Student should be offered remote instruction while excluded.</li> </ul>
Ill person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek testing if ill with any COVID-19 symptoms. Many schools are offering COVID-19 testing. If individual does not have a health care provider and needs assistance finding a testing site, <u>use the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) testing map</u> to find the closest testing location or call 211. Once test result is obtained, this scenario no longer applies; refer to appropriate scenario based on the result.</li> <li>• <b>If the ill person has one or more primary COVID-19 symptoms</b>, stay home from school for 10 days after symptoms first appeared <b>and</b> until 24 hours after fever is resolved, without use of fever-reducing medicine, <b>and</b> other symptoms are improving. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Fully vaccinated people are at much lower risk of COVID-19 than others, but there is still a risk of vaccine breakthrough cases. Therefore, vaccination status does not rule out COVID-19.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>If the ill person has no primary COVID-19 symptoms other than fever or chills and a clear alternative non-respiratory diagnosis is identified by a healthcare provider</b> as the cause of the person’s illness (e.g., a positive urine culture in a child with fever), then usual disease-specific return-to-school guidance should be followed <b>and</b> person should be fever free for 24 hours, without use of fever-reducing medicine. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ A healthcare provider note is required for return to school before 10 days, ensuring that the person is no longer contagious.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>If the ill person has no primary COVID-19 symptoms</b>, then usual disease-specific return-to-school guidance should be followed.</li> </ul>
Household members, including siblings (if ill person is a student)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All household members may continue school attendance.</li> </ul>

\* Note that school **exclusion** in this scenario is distinct from general **isolation** and **quarantine** requirements of public health.



**Scenario 4b.** An ill student or staff member with ~~two or more~~ primary COVID-19 symptoms (cough, temperature of 100.4 °F or higher, chills, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, or new loss of taste or smell) **has not been tested** with a COVID-19 viral test, and a clear alternative non-respiratory diagnosis is not identified. Ill person was in close contact with someone who had confirmed COVID-19 in the past 14 days.

Involved persons	Action
School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If student or staff member is currently on school grounds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Isolate ill person following <a href="#">RSSL 1i</a>.</li> <li>○ Offer COVID-19 testing at school if available.</li> <li>○ Send ill person home.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The ill person may be a “presumptive case,” due to their symptoms and recent contact with a COVID-19 case.</li> <li>• School nurse or designated staff contact LPHA to confirm case and to begin collaboration on contact tracing.</li> <li>• If LPHA verifies that ill person is a presumptive case, use Common Communication protocol to notify affected class/cohort/staff that LPHA is aware of COVID-19 case, and will assist in determining and notifying exposed individuals.</li> <li>• Document on cohort logs when 6 feet (or 3 feet with consistent mask use by all involved students)* physical distancing was not maintained during school day.</li> <li>• Provide cohort logs to LPHA to assist with identifying exposed individuals.</li> <li>• If LPHA determines an entire cohort requires quarantine, follow Common Communication protocol.</li> <li>• Student must be offered instruction under <i>remote learning</i> while isolated; any other students in the household who require quarantine (see below) must also be offered instruction under <i>remote learning</i>.</li> </ul>
Ill person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek testing. Many schools are offering COVID-19 testing. If individual does not have a health care provider and needs assistance finding a testing site, use the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) testing map to find the closest testing location: <a href="https://govstatus.egov.com/or-oha-covid-19-testing-or-call-211">https://govstatus.egov.com/or-oha-covid-19-testing-or-call-211</a>. Once test result is obtained, this scenario no longer applies; refer to appropriate scenario based on the result.</li> <li>• The ill person should isolate at home for 10 days after symptoms first appeared <b>and</b> until 24 hours after fever is resolved, without use of fever-reducing medicine, <b>and</b> other symptoms are improving.</li> <li>• <b>If an alternative respiratory diagnosis is identified by a healthcare provider</b> as the cause of the person’s illness (e.g., positive influenza test), COVID-19 is still not ruled out as co-infection is possible. The ill person should follow LPHA guidance on isolation or quarantine.</li> </ul>

<b>Local public health authority (LPHA)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Verify that ill person is a presumptive case (i.e., they meet symptom criteria and they were exposed to a confirmed case). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ If ill person does not meet case criteria, then handle as a contact and do not proceed with other items; inform school and ill person.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Work with school to review cohort logs to identify exposed individuals.</li> <li>• Determine whether 6 feet (or 3 feet with consistent mask use by all involved students)* physical distancing was consistently maintained during school day. Identify exposed contacts.</li> <li>• If LPHA is unable to verify who was exposed and who was unexposed, quarantine the entire cohort, except for those who are fully vaccinated.*</li> <li>• If student rides school bus or other school district transportation (not public transit), LPHA should attempt to determine exposure based on bus seating/proximity. Determine whether 6-feet* physical distancing was consistently maintained during bus ride. Mask use is mandatory on school buses per federal order, but LPHA should still determine whether students were consistently masked during the ride. If LPHA is unable to determine exposures <b>and</b> bus ride is &gt;15 minutes, all students on bus should be considered an exposed cohort.</li> <li>• Notify exposed contacts to initiate quarantine period.</li> </ul>
<b>School district</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborate with LPHA to determine if cohort quarantine is indicated.</li> <li>• Use Common Communication protocol when communicating decision to quarantine the cohort.</li> </ul>
<b>Exposed persons</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refer to <a href="#">Scenario 1a</a></li> </ul>
<b>Household members, including siblings (if ill person is a student)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the ill person is determined by the LPHA to be a presumptive case, all household members must quarantine* at home following LPHA instructions. Refer to <a href="#">Scenario 1a</a> for details.</li> </ul>

\* See exceptions to 6-feet exposure criterion for masked students and quarantine requirement for fully vaccinated people and people who previously had COVID-19, page 4

**Scenario 4c.** An ill student or staff member with primary COVID-19 symptoms (cough, temperature of 100.4 °F or higher, chills, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, or new loss of taste or smell) **has not been tested** with a COVID-19 viral test, and a clear non-respiratory diagnosis is identified as the cause of illness. Ill person was in close contact with someone who had confirmed COVID-19 in the past 14 days.

Involved persons	Action
School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If student or staff member is currently on school grounds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Offer COVID-19 testing at school if available.</li> <li>◦ Send individual home.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The ill person is not considered a “presumptive case” due to alternative diagnosis.</li> <li>• Student must be offered instruction under <i>remote learning</i> while excluded; any other students in the household who require quarantine (see below) must also be offered instruction under <i>remote learning</i>.</li> </ul>
Ill person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek testing. COVID-19 is possible despite alternative diagnosis. Many schools are offering COVID-19 testing. If individual does not have a health care provider and needs assistance finding a testing site, use the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) testing map to find the closest testing location: <a href="https://govstatus.egov.com/or-oha-covid-19-testing">https://govstatus.egov.com/or-oha-covid-19-testing</a> or call 211. Once test result is obtained, this scenario no longer applies; refer to appropriate scenario based on the result.</li> <li>• <b>Because a clear alternative non-respiratory diagnosis is identified by a healthcare provider</b> as the cause of the person’s illness (e.g., a positive urine culture in a child with fever), then usual disease-specific return-to-school guidance should be followed. However, <b>this person also requires quarantine*</b>, due to recent exposure to COVID-19 case. Person must quarantine at home, following LPHA instructions (refer to <a href="#">Scenario 1a</a>) and meet applicable return-to-school guidance based on their diagnosis. If person develops new COVID-19 symptoms during quarantine, refer to <a href="#">Scenario 2b</a>.</li> </ul>
Household members, including siblings (if ill person is a student)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Because a clear alternative non-respiratory diagnosis is identified by a healthcare provider</b> as the cause of the person’s illness (e.g., a positive urine culture in a child <i>with fever</i>), then all household members may continue school attendance, as long as the family member develops no COVID-19 symptoms during quarantine.</li> </ul>

\* See exceptions to quarantine requirement for fully vaccinated people and people who previously had COVID-19,  
page 4

**Scenario 5. One student or staff member has a positive COVID-19 viral test; OR**

**Scenario 6. Two or more people within same cohort have positive COVID-19 viral tests within 14 days**

Involved persons	Action
School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Send student(s)/staff home if not already isolated outside the school setting.</li> <li>School nurse or designated staff contact LPHA to verify case(s) and to begin collaboration on contact tracing.</li> <li>After verifying positive case(s) with LPHA, use Common Communication protocol to notify class/cohort/staff that LPHA is aware of COVID-19 case(s) and will assist in determining and notifying exposed individuals.</li> <li>Document on cohort logs when 6 feet (or 3 feet with consistent mask use by all involved students)* physical distancing was not maintained during school day.</li> <li>Provide cohort logs to LPHA to assist with identifying exposed individuals.</li> <li>If LPHA determines an entire cohort requires quarantine, follow Common Communication protocol.</li> <li>Student(s) must be offered instruction under <i>remote learning</i> while isolated; any other students in the household who require quarantine (see below) must also be offered instruction under <i>remote learning</i>.</li> </ul>
Ill person(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Isolate at home for 10 days after symptoms first appeared <b>and</b> until 24 hours after fever is resolved, without use of fever-reducing medicine, <b>and</b> other symptoms are improving. If no COVID-19 symptoms, then isolate at home for 10 days after positive test.</li> <li>A negative viral COVID-19 test is <b>not</b> needed for return to school.</li> </ul>
Local public health authority (LPHA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with school to review case(s) and cohort logs.</li> <li>Determine whether 6 feet (or 3 feet with consistent mask use by all involved students)* physical distancing was consistently maintained during school day. Identify exposed contacts.</li> <li>If LPHA is unable to verify who was exposed and who was unexposed, quarantine the entire cohort, except for those who are fully vaccinated.*</li> <li>If student rides school bus or other school district transportation (not public transit), LPHA should attempt to determine exposure based on bus seating/proximity. Determine whether 6-feet* physical distancing was consistently maintained during bus ride. Mask use is mandatory on school buses per federal order, but LPHA should still determine whether students were consistently masked during the ride. If LPHA is unable to determine exposures <b>and</b> bus ride is &gt;15 minutes, all students on bus should be considered an exposed cohort.</li> <li>Notify exposed contacts to initiate quarantine period.</li> </ul>
School District Superintendent or Executive Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborate with LPHA to determine whether cohort quarantine is indicated.</li> <li>Use Common Communication protocol when communicating decision to quarantine the cohort.</li> </ul>



<b>Exposed persons</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Refer to <a href="#">Scenario 1a</a></li></ul>
<b>Household members, including siblings (if ill person is a student)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>All household members must quarantine* at home following LPHA guidance. Refer to <a href="#">Scenario 1a</a> for details.</li></ul>

\* See exceptions to 6-foot exposure criterion for masked students and quarantine requirement for fully vaccinated people and people who previously had COVID-19, page 4

**Scenario 7. Two or more people** in different cohorts have **positive** COVID-19 viral tests within 14 days

Involved persons	Action
School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Send student(s)/staff home if not already isolated outside the school setting.</li> <li>School nurse or designated staff contact LPHA to verify cases and to begin collaboration on contact tracing.</li> <li>After verifying positive cases with LPHA, use Common Communication protocol to notify affected class/cohort/staff that LPHA is aware of COVID-19 cases, and will assist in determining and notifying exposed individuals.</li> <li>Document on cohort logs when 6 feet physical distancing was not maintained during school day.</li> <li>Provide cohort logs to LPHA, to assist with identifying exposed individuals.</li> <li>If LPHA determines an entire cohort (or other identified group) requires quarantine, follow Common Communication protocol.</li> <li>Student(s) must be offered instruction under <i>remote learning</i> while isolated; any other students in the household who require quarantine (see below) must also be offered instruction under <i>remote learning</i>.</li> </ul>
Ill persons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Isolate at home for 10 days after symptoms first appeared <b>and</b> until 24 hours after fever is resolved, without use of fever-reducing medicine, <b>and</b> other symptoms are improving. If no COVID-19 symptoms, isolate at home for 10 days after positive test.</li> <li>A negative viral COVID-19 test is <b>not</b> needed for return to school.</li> </ul>
Local public health authority (LPHA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with school to review cases and cohort logs.</li> <li>If ill student(s) ride school bus or other school district transportation (not public transit), LPHA should attempt to determine exposure based on bus seating/proximity. Determine whether 6-feet* physical distancing was consistently maintained during bus ride. Mask use is mandatory on school buses per federal order, but LPHA should still determine whether students were consistently masked during the ride. If LPHA is unable to determine exposures <b>and</b> bus ride is &gt;15 minutes, all students on bus should be considered an exposed cohort.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>If cases are related</b> (e.g., same household, or same exposure source outside of school setting), may not be due to transmission across different cohort.</li> <li>• Determine whether 6 feet (or 3 feet with consistent mask use by all involved students)* physical distancing was consistently maintained during school day in each cohort. Identify exposed contacts.</li> <li>• If LPHA is unable to verify who was exposed and who was unexposed, quarantine the entire cohort, except for individuals who are fully vaccinated.*</li> <li>• Notify exposed contacts to initiate quarantine period.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>If cases are unrelated</b> (e.g., not from same household, cannot identify a common source outside of school setting), these may be sporadic cases. Refer to <a href="#">Scenario 5</a>.</li> <li>• <b>If the cases are unrelated but have definite exposure to each other during school day</b> (e.g., not assigned to same cohort, but attend same after-school activity), this may be due to transmission during groups outside of cohorts.</li> <li>• Recommend to quarantine* if specific groups can be identified. If specific overlapping groups cannot be identified, recommend quarantine of all affected cohorts, except for individuals who are fully vaccinated*.</li> <li>• Notify exposed contacts to initiate quarantine period.</li> </ul>
<b>School District Superintendent or Executive Leadership</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborate with LPHA to determine whether cohort quarantine is indicated.</li> <li>• Use Common Communication protocol when communicating decision to quarantine the cohort.</li> </ul>	
<b>Exposed person</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refer to <a href="#">Scenario 1a</a></li> <li>•</li> </ul>	
<b>Household members and siblings (if ill person is a student)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All household members must quarantine* at home, following LPHA guidance. Refer to <a href="#">Scenario 1a</a>.</li> </ul>	

\* See exceptions to 6-feet exposure criterion for masked students and quarantine requirement for fully vaccinated people and people who previously had COVID-19, page 4

## Terms to Know

Term	Definition
Community spread	When people have been infected with the virus in an area and some are not sure how or where they became infected.
Confirmed case	Individual who tests positive using an FDA Emergency Use Authorized (EUA) diagnostic (viral) test.
Coronavirus	A large family of viruses that are common in people and many different species of animals.
COVID-19	Abbreviation for the coronavirus diseases 2019, a disease caused by a novel (or new) coronavirus called SARS-CoV-2 that has not previously been seen in humans.
Epidemic	Affecting or tending to affect a disproportionately large number of individuals within a population, community or region at the same time.
Exclusion	Keeping a student with certain contagious diseases or symptoms out of school to prevent possible disease spread. Determined by school administrator.
Exposed (close contact)	<p>Having been within 6 feet of a confirmed or presumptive COVID-19 case for 15 minutes or more within one day, or having been in contact with the infectious secretions of a confirmed or presumptive COVID-19 case. Exception: in K–12 settings, <b>students</b> who were within 3 to 6 feet of someone with COVID-19 where both students were engaged in consistent and correct use of well-fitting masks <b>and</b> other K–12 school prevention strategies (such as universal and correct mask use, physical distancing, increased ventilation) were in place <b>are not considered exposed</b>. This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults.</p> <p>The LPHA will determine whether someone was exposed.</p>
Isolation	Separates people with a contagious disease from other people to prevent disease spread. Determined by LPHA.
LPHA	Local public health authority: a county government, health district or an intergovernmental entity that provides public health services. <a href="#">Directory of Oregon LPHAs</a>



Outbreak	For the purposes of this document, an outbreak is two or more COVID-19 cases occurring in the same cohort (linked by time and place) in people from different households, suggesting viral spread within the cohort.
Pandemic	Occurring over a wide geographic area and affecting an exceptionally high proportion of the population.
Physical distancing	Measures intended to limit the movement of people in order to interrupt the transmission of infectious, contagious diseases.
Presumptive case	Individual who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Has at least two of the following COVID-19 symptoms: shortness of breath, cough, fever, new loss of smell or taste;</li> <li>● Has not had a positive COVID-19 viral test; AND</li> <li>● Had close contact with a confirmed case in the past 14 days</li> </ul> OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Has a positive test result from an at-home test kit; AND</li> <li>● Has at least one primary COVID-19 symptom OR had close contact with a confirmed case in the past 14 days OR had out-of-state travel in the past 14 days</li> </ul>
Quarantine	Separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to monitor whether they become sick and prevent disease spread. Determined by LPHA.
Viral test	A test for the presence of an active viral infection (e.g., a PCR test or an antigen test). Antibody tests are not viral tests.