



Personnel who work with children have an important role in preventing the spread of COVID-19 by promptly offering information and quarantine guidance to students, staff and teachers. [General quarantine guidance can be found here](#). This chart supplements the [Check List for Handling COVID-19 in PreK-12 Schools, Child Care, Camps and Out-of-School Programs](#) to provide modified guidance for high-risk activities common in PreK-12 schools. There is room to use judgement along with these guidelines and there may be circumstances warranting a more cautious approach.





### General guidance for all situations:




- Anyone in close contact with someone with COVID-19 should quarantine, unless they are vaccinated without symptoms **or** within 3 months of being recovered from COVID-19 without any new symptoms.
- Children, teachers, and staff with symptoms should stay home, and seek medical care, if needed.
- People with symptoms of COVID-19 should get tested. Anyone with positive test results should isolate.

### What is a close contact?

Anyone who is within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more, consecutively or cumulatively is a close contact. In addition, use the chart below to assess close contacts.

Activity of Infectious Person	Setting	Distance and/or time to determine exposure risk	Is a close contact?
 <b>Any activity</b>	Any setting	6 feet or less for 15 minutes or more	Yes
 <b>Playing a wind instrument</b>	Auditorium	12 feet or more (16 feet or more from a trombonists)	No
		6 to 12 feet (9 to 16 feet from a trombonist)	Conduct <a href="#">risk assessment*</a> (see below)
	Classroom or non-auditorium setting	Any distance and 15 minutes or more	Yes

Activity of Infectious Person	Setting	Distance and/or time to determine exposure risk	Is a close contact?
 <b>Singing</b>	Auditorium	12 feet or more	No
		6 to 12 feet	Conduct <a href="#">risk assessment*</a> (see below)
	Classroom or non-auditorium setting	Any distance and 15 minutes or more	Yes
 <b>Classroom work</b>	Classroom with seating charts	6 feet or less for 1.5 hours or less	Yes
		More than 6 feet for 1.5 hours or less	No
		More than 6 feet for 1.5 to 4 hours	Conduct <a href="#">risk assessment*</a> (see below)
	Classroom with or without seating charts	A pod of students spends 4 or more hours together (even if the students change physical location together during this time); any distance.	Yes
 <b>Lunchroom</b>	Cafeteria with seating information	6 feet or less	Yes
		More than 6 feet	No
	Cafeteria without seating information	In the cafeteria for 15 minutes or more	Yes
 <b>Sports: skills and drills</b>	Indoor or outdoor	6 feet or less for 15 minutes or more	Yes
	Indoor	More than 6 feet	Conduct <a href="#">risk assessment*</a> (see below)

Activity of Infectious Person	Setting	Distance and/or time to determine exposure risk	Is a close contact?
	Outdoor	More than 6 feet	No
 <b>Sports: game play</b>	Indoor	Any amount of time	Yes. Both teams. (People on opposing team who did not play are not close contacts.)
	Outdoor	Any amount of time	Conduct a <a href="#">risk assessment*</a> (see below) for each team
 <b>Recess</b>	Indoor	6 feet or less for 15 minutes or more	Yes
		More than 6 feet	Conduct a <a href="#">risk assessment*</a> (see below)
	Outdoor	6 feet or less for 15 minutes or more	Yes
		Unknown, or anything not meeting the threshold of being within 6 feet for 15 minutes	No. Consider sending the low risk exposure letter*
 <b>Transportation</b>	Bus with seating information	6 feet or less in any direction for 15 minutes or more	Yes
		More than 6 feet	No
	Bus without seating information	Anyone on the bus for 15 minutes or more	Yes

\***Low risk exposure: Exposure is possible, but close contact status is unknown.** Anyone identified as having a low risk exposure should be notified and recommended to monitor for symptoms and seek testing 3-5 days after exposure. Those identified as having low risk exposures are not recommended to quarantine.

## Risk assessment

Questions			
How well is the area ventilated with outdoor air?	more	<b>outdoor air</b>	less
What infection control practices were in place?	multiple	<b>Masks, distance, etc.</b>	none
How large is the room?	larger	<b>room</b>	smaller
How many people were participating?	less	<b>people</b>	more
How old are the students? <sup>1</sup>	older	<b>age</b>	younger
How long were people together?	shorter	<b>time</b>	longer
What other opportunities for close contact were happening?	less	<b>recess, lunch, breaks, etc.</b>	more
How many people in the group were infectious?	less	<b>infectious people</b>	more
Did the infectious people have symptoms?	no	<b>symptoms</b>	yes
What is the level of community transmission?	low	<b>cases in community</b>	high
If a wind instrument was used by infectious person, were spit valves emptied around other people?	no	<b>valves and location</b>	yes
Were bell covers on the wind instruments?	yes	<b>bell covers used</b>	no

## Definitions

**Close contact** is being within 6 feet of someone with COVID-19 for 15 minutes or more within a 24 hour period. This applies whether or not either person was wearing a mask. Use this standard for time and distance unless otherwise noted in the chart. People who are vaccinated are exempt from quarantine after exposure.

**Quarantine** is when people with close contact exposure stay home and away from other people for 14 days. People without symptoms have the option to get tested on or after day 7. The test must be for current infection (like a PCR test), except it cannot be an antigen test. The person must remain under quarantine until the negative test is received.

<sup>1</sup> Younger students may not remember their close contacts and may not follow prevention steps like proper masking or distancing as well as older children.

**Isolation** is when people who tested positive for COVID-19 stay home and away from other people until they have recovered.

**Cumulative exposure** is the total time of exposure over 24 hours. This can be multiple shorter exposures or one longer exposure.

**Wind instruments** include brass and woodwind instruments. Percussion and string instruments are excluded from this guidance.