

Communication from the Chula Vista Elementary School District

Dear CVESD Staff and Families:

Over these past few weeks, the CDPH and San Diego County provided multiple updates to COVID guidelines for schools.

One of the most significant changes applies to if your child is exposed to a positive COVID case at school. There is an adjustment, effective immediately, to the contact tracing process at schools called **group-tracing**.

The new group-tracing approach to students exposed to a positive COVID case at school allows for a quicker and broader response through prompt notification, testing, and isolation protocols. Anyone who spent more than a cumulative total of 15 minutes (within 24 hours) in shared indoor airspace (e.g., for example, an entire classroom or an entire athletic team during practice) will receive an email notification. Because being exposed to somebody with COVID does not necessarily mean that your child will become infected, public health says your child may remain in school if you receive this notification, *unless* they develop symptoms or test positive. In addition to wearing a mask and monitoring for symptoms, it is required your child get tested within 3-5 days after the last contact with the positive individual. Proof of a negative test does not need to be submitted in this case. Any positive results should be reported to your child's school immediately.

This group-tracing strategy also allows for schools to continue to provide safe in-person instruction without excessive quarantining for students and without tying up valuable staff time to undertake intense (and often protracted) contact tracing processes to try to identify individual students who were within a specified radius of someone infected.

What Do You Do When You Receive an Exposure Letter?

According to the updated San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE) [Decision Tree](#), your child must test, regardless of vaccination status or prior COVID-19 infection, at least one time between days 3-5 from the last date of exposure on the letter/email. You must report only positive test results to the school site. Please do not send negative results.

What If I Don't Want My Child to Test?

Parents can opt-out of the group tracing. The student will be excluded from school and extracurricular activities for 10 days per County of San Diego guidance.

Which Test Should I Take?

PCR or antigen are both acceptable for group contact testing, but it is highly recommended that individuals who have had a history of testing positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days use an antigen test. Home antigen tests are allowed.

Staff and Preschool will continue to use close-contact notifications

If you have questions about this guidance, please reach out to members of our COVID-19 response team at covtest4@cvesd.org.

We continue to appreciate your partnership in keeping your child home when symptomatic or COVID positive so we can provide a healthy learning environment for all.

Jenny Venyak

Benefits and Risk Manager

Chula Vista Elementary School District

Link to Decision Tree: <https://covid-19.sdcoe.net/Portals/covid-19/Documents/Health%20Practices/COVID-19-Decision-Tree.pdf?updated=011222>

Link to FAQ's <https://covid-19.sdcoe.net/Health-Practices/Guidelines-for-Schools#faq>