



# SCHOOL & COLLEGE LEGAL SERVICES OF CALIFORNIA

*A Joint Powers Authority  
serving school and college  
districts throughout the  
state.*

5350 Skylane Boulevard  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Tel: (707) 524-2690  
Fax: (707) 578-0517  
santarosa@sclsca.org  
www.sclsca.org

*General Counsel*  
Carl D. Corbin

*Attorneys*  
Jennifer Henry  
Nancy L. Klein  
Damara L. Moore  
Jennifer E. Nix  
Steven P. Reiner  
Kaitlyn A. Schwendeman  
Leah M. Smith  
Loren W. Soukup  
Erin E. Stagg

*Of Counsel*  
Robert J. Henry  
Frank Zotter, Jr.

## LEGAL UPDATE

January 26, 2022

**To:** Superintendents, Member School Districts (K-12)  
**From:** Jennifer Henry, Associate General Counsel *JH*  
**Subject:** CDPH Revises its K-12 Schools Guidance to Give a New Group Tracing Notification Option for Student Exposures  
Memo No. 06-2022

---

On January 12, 2022, the California Department of Public Health (“CDPH”) revised its COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2021-22 School Year.<sup>1</sup> CDPH revised its student quarantine guidance and provided a new “Group Tracing” Notification process as a less onerous option to pre-existing quarantine and contact tracing guidelines for K-12 students.<sup>2</sup> Attached at the end of this Legal Update is CDPH’s sample Group Tracing Notification letter to Parents/Guardians for Student Exposures.

A student “close contact” is defined as more than 15 minutes over a 24 hour period within six feet in an indoor space (including on buses) at school (“exposure”). For students who have been exposed at school to a person who tested positive, K-12 schools can now follow one of the two options:

### STUDENT EXPOSURE QUARANTINE RULES (OPTION A):

-For Vaccinated Students, or Students who had a COVID-19 infection within last 90 days, who are Exposed: No quarantine needed unless have symptoms or test positive. Wear a mask for 10 days.

-For Unvaccinated Students who are Exposed – Both Parties Wearing a Mask: No quarantine needed if, for 10 days after, are asymptomatic, undergo twice weekly testing, and excluded from extracurricular school activities (including sports) and community activities – OR – quarantine for five days and return after Day 5 if asymptomatic and a negative test from Day 5 or later.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/K-12-Guidance-2021-22-School-Year.aspx>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Group-Tracing-Approach-to-Students-Exposed-to-COVID-19.aspx>.



-For Unvaccinated Students who are Exposed – Unmasked: Stay home for 5 days, can return if no symptoms AND tests negative; and should wear a mask until day 10. Otherwise, stay home for 10 days.

#### GROUP TRACING NOTIFICATION (OPTION B):

After an exposure (shared indoor space for over 15 minutes in a 24 hour period with a positive case at school), K-12 schools can send a notice to parents of “groups” of exposed students (classmates, sports teammates, extracurricular cohorts, etc.) in lieu of contact tracing. Regardless of vaccination or prior infection status, or whether masked, students do not have to quarantine unless they develop symptoms or test positive. Students are strongly recommended to get tested 3-5 days after exposure. Students must continue to wear a mask indoors. Exposed students must participate in testing in order to take part in sports and extracurricular activities.

\*Please note that, as of January 8, 2022, for students or employees who test positive, CDPH recommends staying home for at least five days, regardless of vaccination status, previous COVID-19 infection, or lack of symptoms. Isolation can end after Day 5 if asymptomatic and a negative test from Day 5 or later, and the individual stays masked indoors through Day 10. Otherwise, the individual is to stay home through Day 10.<sup>3</sup>

Please contact our office with questions regarding this Legal Update or any other legal matter.

*The information in this Legal Update is provided as a summary of law and is not intended as legal advice. Application of the law may vary depending on the particular facts and circumstances at issue. We, therefore, recommend that you consult legal counsel to advise you on how the law applies to your specific situation.*

© 2022 School and College Legal Services of California

*All rights reserved. However, SCLS grants permission to any current SCLS client to use, reproduce, and distribute this Legal Update in its entirety for the client’s own non-commercial purposes.*

---

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Guidance-on-Isolation-and-Quarantine-for-COVID-19-Contact-Tracing.aspx>.