

# K-12 Schools Telebriefing: Q&A Report

February 6th, 2024

This report includes questions submitted by telebriefing attendees that were answered during the [K-12 Schools Telebriefing](#) via the Q&A function. **Answers are only accurate as of February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024.** If you have a specific question or need clarification, please email us at [COVID-questions@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:COVID-questions@sdcounty.ca.gov) or [LiveWellEducation@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:LiveWellEducation@sdcounty.ca.gov).

Topic	Question	Answer
<b>Childcare</b>	Does childcare have any separate requirements/guidelines from K-12?	Childcare does not have any separate requirements at this time.
<b>Contact Information</b>	How do we contact the EPI Team?	You may call 619-692-8636, or email <a href="mailto:PHS.EPI-SCHOOLS.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov">PHS.EPI-SCHOOLS.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov</a> to speak to a team member on the San Diego County Epidemiology School Team.
<b>COVID-19</b>	<p>If a staff member was exposed, they don't need to wear a mask unless they develop symptoms, right?</p> <p>If symptoms arise but an individual tests negative for COVID-19, should they wear a mask until symptoms improve?</p>	The only time a staff member is required to mask is when they are returning from a positive test (through day 10 from their positive test or symptom onset date), or in an outbreak setting when that staff member was identified as a close contact or was potentially exposed. An individual with symptoms should continue to mask until their status is determined, but it is not a requirement.
<b>Influenza</b>	What constitutes a flu outbreak? How many cases do we need to have at a school before reporting?	There is no strict definition for a flu outbreak as there is with a COVID-19 outbreak. Always feel free to contact your school's/district's representative in Epidemiology (county HHSA) if you think you have many cases. And certainly do so if you ever find more than 10% of a group is ill with similar symptoms.
<b>Measles</b>	Should we send any letters to our families who have an exemption for measles?	It is up to you if you wish to inform your families about the case of measles in San Diego County. You may find that this incident provides another opportunity to remind parents about the importance of vaccines. Unvaccinated individuals may need to be excluded from school temporarily if an outbreak should ever occur.
<b>Notifications &amp; Outbreaks</b>	If an asymptomatic student tests positive, continues to go to school, and never develops symptoms, are we required to notify close contacts?	There is no requirement for notification of students about exposure. As a reminder, asymptomatic students who tests positive and continue to go to school should mask indoors for 10 days (they can un-mask sooner if 2 consecutive tests taken 24 hours apart are negative). They should also avoid others that are at risk for more

	For outbreak purposes, can an asymptomatic person be the index in an outbreak?	severe disease. An asymptomatic person can be the index in an outbreak. Please still report suspected outbreaks to the Public Health Department.
<b>Notifications &amp; Outbreaks</b>	Should schools send a class letter when a new COVID-19 case occurs and the students may be a close contact? Do we only send a letter to that class when there is an outbreak of 3 or more cases, or does it go to the larger community?	There is no requirement for notification of students about exposure. In an outbreak setting, you will work directly with the EPI team to determine appropriate next steps. Suspected outbreaks, 3 cases within 7 days, should continue to be reported to the Public Health Department.
<b>Notifications &amp; Outbreaks</b>	Do we need to report outbreaks to the County?	In an outbreak setting, you will work directly with the EPI team to determine appropriate next steps. Suspected outbreaks, 3 cases within 7 days, should continue to be reported to the Public Health Department.
<b>Notifications &amp; Outbreaks</b>	Should we send exposure notifications to staff that were exposed?	CalOSHA requirements have not changed. It is still required for exposure notifications to be sent to staff.
<b>Notifications &amp; Outbreaks</b>	For staff notifications, what is the last date of exposure if they don't isolate because their symptoms are mild?	Staff should isolate if they test positive and are symptomatic. Staff may return to work once their symptoms are mild or are improving, and if they have not experienced any fever within the last 24 hours without fever reducing medication. If they were at work during their infectious state, with active symptoms prior to improvement, the worksite would be considered exposed, and notifications would be required.
<b>Notifications &amp; Outbreaks</b>	Is an outbreak any 3 cases on our campus even if they are not in the same grade or rooms, or 3 cases that can have a potential EPI link (e.g., all 3 are in the same classroom or space)?	The cases need to have had close contact (e.g., being in the same air space) and within 7 days of symptom onset in order to get counted as 3 cases in the definition of an outbreak. Siblings residing in the same home (no matter how many) are counted as 1 individual.
<b>Notifications &amp; Outbreaks</b>	To confirm, we are not required to notify people in close contact with an asymptomatic case because the definition of 'infectious period' has changed?	That is correct.
<b>Notifications &amp; Outbreaks</b>	Did CDPH give any reasoning for this change? This individual expresses concerns about a positive asymptomatic person still being contagious.	Oregon adopted these less rigorous guidelines last school year. State officials found there was no increase in COVID-19 prevalence. CDPH reviewed this data as well and came to the same conclusion.