



# PALO VERDE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Blythe, California

# School Reopening Plan

Guidelines, Resources, and Best Practices for the Safe Reopening of  
Palo Verde Unified School District Schools in COVID-19 Conditions  
Subject to revision. Updated 01/18/2022

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# INTRODUCTION

## PVUSD Reopening Plan

Thank you for your patience, understanding, and willingness to pivot with us during these most challenging of circumstances.

This document has evolved and has been revised based on changing public health guidelines, input from our reopening planning committees, staff, families, and ongoing reviews. With this collaboration and open communication, your ideas and insights have been helpful as we continue to move forward in our planning.

Palo Verde Unified School District (PVUSD) staff continue to work diligently within and across departments to develop plans to safely and effectively reopen our schools.

In light of the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and California Department of Public Health (CDPH) requirements, the COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, and Riverside County Public Health Orders, this document serves to provide PVUSD schools and families with information related to the return to instruction and the safe reopening of school facilities in the 2021-2022 school year.

Please note that this document is based on current knowledge, and will continue to be updated based on information from the California Department of Public Health and Riverside County Public Health orders.

We know there are unique challenges facing each school site and their respective communities. It is the hope of PVUSD that this School Reopening Plan will provide our educational community with ongoing information and transparent planning in an ever-changing, rapidly evolving landscape. We know this school year will look different and will require adjustments and flexibility. Our ultimate goal is to ensure a safe return to instruction and to continue to provide a healthy learning environment for each and every student.

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# GUIDING PRINCIPLES

For Opening School Safely

## OUR PRIORITY

Ensure students and staff confidently return to a safe environment conducive for learning and work.

The following guiding principles drive the work of PVUSD's Governing Board of Trustees, administrators, teachers and staff to ensure a safe 2021-2022 school year for all:

- ❖ Follow Public Health guidelines
- ❖ Maintain District values and priorities
- ❖ Establish systematic protocols
- ❖ Provide timely and transparent communication

# HEALTH and SAFETY

## IN-PERSON, ON-CAMPUS TEACHING AND LEARNING

PVUSD will follow all public health requirements. PVUSD will continue to focus on academic instruction as well as the programs that are crucial for the mental, social emotional, and physical wellbeing of students.

### Screening at home:

- Students are required to self-screen for symptoms such as cough, shortness of breath, runny nose and fever at home before coming to school.
- Anyone with a fever of 100.4°F or more should not go to a school site. Those experiencing symptoms including persistent cough, shortness of breath, or runny nose should not attend school, even if no fever is present. Staff members are required to self-screen and complete a daily temperature check prior to entering any PVUSD site.
- Here is a full listing of COVID-19 symptoms from the CDC Screening K-12 Students for Symptoms of COVID-19:

- Fever or Chills
- Cough
- Shortness of Breath or Difficulty Breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or Body Aches
- Headache
- New Loss of Taste or Smell
- Sore Throat
- Congestion or Runny Nose
- Nausea or Vomiting
- Diarrhea



**ESTABLISHED PROTOCOLS  
IF A TEMPERATURE  
OF 100.4°F OR HIGHER  
IS DETECTED:**



- Students and staff with a temperature of 100.4°F or higher will not be admitted and shall be sent home.
- Notify a health care provider if COVID-19 symptoms are present.
- Notify the school administration of any positive COVID-19 test results.
- School will notify health officials, staff and families of any positive cases. Confidentiality will be maintained.
- If a student develops a fever while at school, the student will be isolated from other students and the parent/guardian will be contacted to pick the student up. Please ensure you provide your school site with current contact information.
- Sick staff and students will be advised to isolate according to CDC and local Public Health guidelines.

# COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2021-22 School Year

## Hand hygiene

- Teach and reinforce washing hands, avoiding contact with one's eyes, nose and mouth, and covering coughs and sneezes among students and staff.
- Promote hand washing throughout the day, especially before and after eating, after using the toilet, and after handling garbage, or removing gloves.
- Touchless hand sanitizer will be available at all school sites and all classrooms have sinks or hand sanitizing stations.
- Visual reminders are posted for staff and students.
- Ensure adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors, including soap, tissues, no-touch trashcans, face coverings, and hand sanitizers with at least 60 percent ethyl alcohol for staff and children who can safely use hand sanitizer.

## Facial coverings

- Universal masking prevents outbreaks and permits modified quarantine under certain conditions in K-12 settings, supporting more instructional time and minimizing missed school days for students. Additionally, universal masking indoors is critical to enabling all schools to offer and provide full in-person instruction to all students without minimum physical distancing requirements at the outset of the school year.
- On school grounds, the CDPH guidance requires that students and staff wear a face covering while indoors. The cloth face covering may not let light pass through when held up to a light source. Gaiters (which must have two layers) and face coverings with a clear plastic panel are permitted to be worn.
- The covering may be removed for meals, snacks, naptime, and outdoor recreation, but should be used at all other times unless there is a medical exemption.
- As per CDPH, persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a mask as well as persons who are hearing impaired are exempt from mask requirements. Assessing for exemption due to a medical condition, mental health condition, disability that prevents wearing a mask, or hearing impairment is a medical determination and therefore must be made by a physician, nurse practitioner, or other licensed medical professional practicing under the license of a physician. Self-attestation and parental attestation for mask exemptions due to the aforementioned conditions do not



constitute medical determinations. Additionally, per CDPH, persons exempted from wearing a face covering due to a medical condition must wear a non-restrictive alternative, such as a face shield with a drape on the bottom edge, as long as their condition permits it.

- In all PVUSD schools, facial coverings are required indoors (unless meeting the exemption requirements) for all students, staff members and visitors (once allowed).
- People exempt from wearing a face covering should wear a face shield with a drape on the bottom edge as long as their condition permits.
- Students will be instructed on proper face covering protocols. Parents are asked to familiarize their children with the use of cloth facial coverings. Students without masks will be provided one.
- Students and families will be provided an option for Independent Study if the student chooses not to wear a mask.
- Visual reminders are posted for staff and students.

### Physical Distancing

- Recent evidence indicates that in-person instruction can occur safely without minimum physical distancing requirements when other mitigation strategies (e.g., masking) are implemented. This is consistent with CDC K-12 School Guidance.

### Testing of Students and Staff

- Symptomatic and response testing:
  - Families may take students to Rite Aid to obtain COVID-19 testing. Rite Aid allows for testing of students four years of age and older. Staff members may also go to Rite Aid to obtain COVID-19 testing. The District has contracted with Valencia Labs (Color) for on-site student and staff COVID-19 testing. Our nurse and LVNs have been trained to provide testing as an additional option/choice for staff and students. Staff members and students may also test at any appropriate testing sites that offer Public Health approved COVID-19 tests. Finally, PVUSD offers antigen testing through Primary Health. These tests are at no cost to the employees and students/families.

PVUSD will continue providing Staff Training and Family Education so that staff and families are educated on the application and enforcement of the School Reopening Plan and the COVID-Prevention Plan as updates are made.

# MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS

## Safety Equipment

PVUSD has committed to securing additional safety equipment to maintain the cleanliness of campuses, including but not limited to:

### ✓ HAND SANITIZING STATIONS

Hand sanitizing stations have been installed and are located in common areas such as lunch areas, front offices, and priority locations identified by the staff.

### ✓ PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT FOR STAFF

All students and staff are required to wear face coverings unless prevented due to health conditions or instructional/communication needs. Additional disposable masks and gloves are also available, as needed.

### ✓ MERV 11 FILTERS AT ALL CAMPUSES

The District has installed highly rated Merv 11 filters in each HVAC unit. HVAC systems are scheduled to run at least an hour before and after school. Additionally, all classrooms have been supplied with an EPA-approved HEPA air purifier.

### ✓ CLEANING and DISINFECTING RECOMMENDATIONS

In general, cleaning once a day is usually enough to sufficiently remove potential virus that may be on surfaces.

Disinfecting (using disinfectants on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency COVID-19 list) removes any remaining germs on surfaces, which further reduces any risk of spreading infection.

If a facility has had a sick person with COVID-19 within the last 24 hours, clean AND disinfect the spaces occupied by that person during that time.

## Other Safety Considerations...

- ✓ Restrooms are cleaned and re-stocked with soap and paper products throughout the day.
- ✓ Disinfecting sprays and/or disinfecting supplies are available at every site.
- ✓ Campuses follow guidelines developed by the CDPH for cleaning, disinfection, and ventilation of school sites.
- ✓ Students should bring their own water bottles and may refill their bottles at water filling stations on campus.
- ✓ Paper towels are available for use in restrooms.

# Six Steps for Properly Cleaning and Disinfecting Your School

## Protect Your School Against COVID-19

Properly cleaning and disinfecting surfaces and objects can help safely and effectively reduce the spread of disease in your school or facility. Routinely clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.

- ✓ **Always wear gloves and other personal protective equipment (PPE)** appropriate for the chemicals being used. The PPE may include eye protection.
- ✓ **Cleaning and disinfection products should not be used by or near students.**
- ✓ **Make sure that there is adequate ventilation (air flow) when using chemical products** to prevent yourself or others from inhaling toxic vapors.



**Step 1:**  
Visit [epa.gov/listn](https://www.epa.gov/listn) or scan the QR code with your smart phone to see EPA's list of approved disinfectants



**Step 2:**  
Follow the directions on the label carefully.



**Step 3:**  
Clean surfaces and determine how areas will be disinfected.



**Step 4:**  
Follow the contact time shown on the label.



**Step 5:**  
Throw away gloves after cleaning and disinfection. Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.



**Step 6:**  
Store chemicals in a secure location away from students' reach and sight.



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[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/community/schools-childcare/Six-Steps-for-Cleaning-Disinfecting-school.pdf>

# FOOD SERVICE RECOMMENDATIONS

- Maximize physical distance as much as possible while eating (especially indoors). Using additional spaces outside of the cafeteria for mealtime seating such as classrooms or the gymnasium can help facilitate distancing. Arrange for eating outdoors as much as feasible.
- Clean frequently touched surfaces. Surfaces that come in contact with food should be washed, rinsed, and sanitized before and after meals.
- Given very low risk of transmission from surfaces and shared objects, there is no need to limit food service approaches to single use items and packaged meals.

# COVID-19 PROTOCOL & NOTIFICATION

California Department of Public Health

Protocols for when a student, teacher, or staff member has symptoms, is in contact with someone infected, or is diagnosed with COVID-19. The following steps have been provided by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH).

## 1. Case reporting, contact tracing and investigation

Schools are required to report COVID-19 cases to the local public health department.

Schools or LEAs should have a COVID-19 liaison to assist the local health department with contact tracing and investigation.

## 2. Quarantine recommendations for vaccinated students who are considered close contacts

Students who are **fully vaccinated** and **asymptomatic** may continue going to school and participate in extra-curricular activities. These students are not required to test but may do so on or after day 5 from the date of exposure.

Students who are **fully vaccinated** and **symptomatic** will be sent home, instructed to isolate and recommended to test. While test results are pending, they must continue the home isolation. If the exposed student is **positive**, the student must continue isolation and follow protocol for positive COVID-19 tests. If exposed student test is **negative**, the student can follow one of these quarantine options:

- Quarantine can end after Day 10 from the date of last exposure without testing. If student symptoms improve and student is without a fever for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications; OR
- Quarantine can end after Day 7 if a diagnostic specimen with a negative result is collected after Day 5 from the date of last exposure, student symptoms improve, and student is without a fever for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications.

3. Quarantine recommendations for students who are not fully vaccinated for exposures when both parties were wearing a mask, as required in K-12 indoor settings. These are adapted from the CDC K-12 guidance and CDC definition of a close contact.

When both parties were wearing a mask in a school setting (indoor, outdoor and school buses), unvaccinated students who are close contacts (more than 15 minutes over a 24-hour period within 0-6 feet indoors) may undergo a *modified* quarantine as follows. They may continue to attend school for in-person instruction if they:

- Are asymptomatic;
  - Continue to appropriately mask, as required;
  - Undergo at least twice weekly testing during the quarantine; and
  - While on *modified* quarantine, students are required to wear masks indoors and are strongly encouraged to wear masks outdoors. They may use school buses. They may participate in all required instructional components of the school day, except activities where a mask cannot be worn, such as while playing certain musical instruments. However, students on modified quarantine may eat meals on campus using food service recommendations in the K-12 Guidance. Students are to refrain from all extracurricular activities, including sports and any community activities, during *modified* quarantine.
  - *Modified* quarantine can end after Day 7 if test is collected on or after Day 5 from the date of last exposure and test is negative.
  - *At-home* quarantine can end after Day 10 from the date of last exposure without testing.

If students are symptomatic;

- Send home, instruct to isolate, and recommend testing;
- If the exposed student is **positive**, the student must continue isolation and follow protocol for positive COVID-19 tests.
- If exposed student test is **negative**, the student must complete the 10-day quarantine from the date of last exposure.
- If the parent of an exposed student refuses testing for the student, a 10-day quarantine must be completed.

Quarantine can end after Day 10 from the date of last exposure without testing if student symptoms improve and student is without a fever for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications.

If an exposed student has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days, they do not need to quarantine unless new symptoms develop.

**4. Quarantine recommendations for students who are not fully vaccinated and who were not wearing masks or for whom the infected individual was not wearing a mask during the indoor exposure, or if exposure occurred outside of a school setting.**

For these contacts, those who remain asymptomatic, meaning they have NOT had any symptoms, may discontinue quarantine under the following conditions:

- Quarantine can end after Day 10 from the date of last exposure without testing; OR
- Quarantine can end after Day 7 if a diagnostic specimen is collected after Day 5 from the date of last exposure and tests negative. Student may return on Day 8 from the date of last exposure.

In general, it is recommended to test immediately after being exposed to someone with COVID-19. Subsequent testing should occur at least three days apart. Quarantine can end after day 7 if a diagnostic specimen is collected after day five from the last exposure and tests negative.

At this time, at-home testing is not recommended for evaluation of an individual's status during quarantine.

For persons in quarantine who experience symptoms, a negative result from an antigen test should be confirmed with a laboratory PCR test.

If an exposed student has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days, they do not need to quarantine unless new symptoms develop.

**5. Isolation recommendations**

For both vaccinated and unvaccinated persons with COVID-19 who have symptoms and were instructed to care for themselves at home may discontinue isolation under the following conditions:



Confirmed COVID-19 test, symptomatic:

- Positive individual to remain in home isolation for at least 5 days.
- Isolation can end after Day 5 if symptoms are not present or are resolving AND a diagnostic specimen is collected on Day 5 or later and the test is negative.
- At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; AND
- Other symptoms have improved

Confirmed COVID-19 test, asymptomatic or the onset symptoms is unknown:

- Positive individual to remain in home isolation for at least 5 days.
- Isolation can end after Day 5 if symptoms are not present or are resolving AND a diagnostic specimen is collected on Day 5 or later and the test is negative.
- If isolation is discontinued after Day 5, student must continue to wear a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 10 days especially in indoor settings.
- If student develops symptoms during isolation, student must remain in isolation until after Day 10.

No known exposure, symptomatic:

- Send home, instruct to isolate, and recommend testing on Day 5.
- While student COVID-19 test is pending, they must continue home isolation.
- If student test is positive, student must continue isolation and follow protocol for positive COVID-19 test.
- If student test is negative, student may be released from isolation and return to school if:
  - COVID-19 test is negative and if student symptoms improve and student is without a fever for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications.
  - OR a healthcare provider has provided documentations that the symptoms are typical of their underlying chronic condition
  - OR a healthcare provider has confirmed an alternative diagnosis
  - OR at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset

If student is unable to test or chooses not to test, and symptoms are not present or are resolving, student must remain in isolation until after Day 10.

## Additional considerations or other populations

### 1. Disabilities or other health care needs recommendations

When implementing this guidance, schools should carefully consider how to address the legal requirements related to provision of a free appropriate public education and requirements to reasonably accommodate disabilities, which continue to apply.

Refer to the CDC K-12 guidance section on “Disabilities or other health care needs” for additional recommendations.

### 2. Visitor recommendations

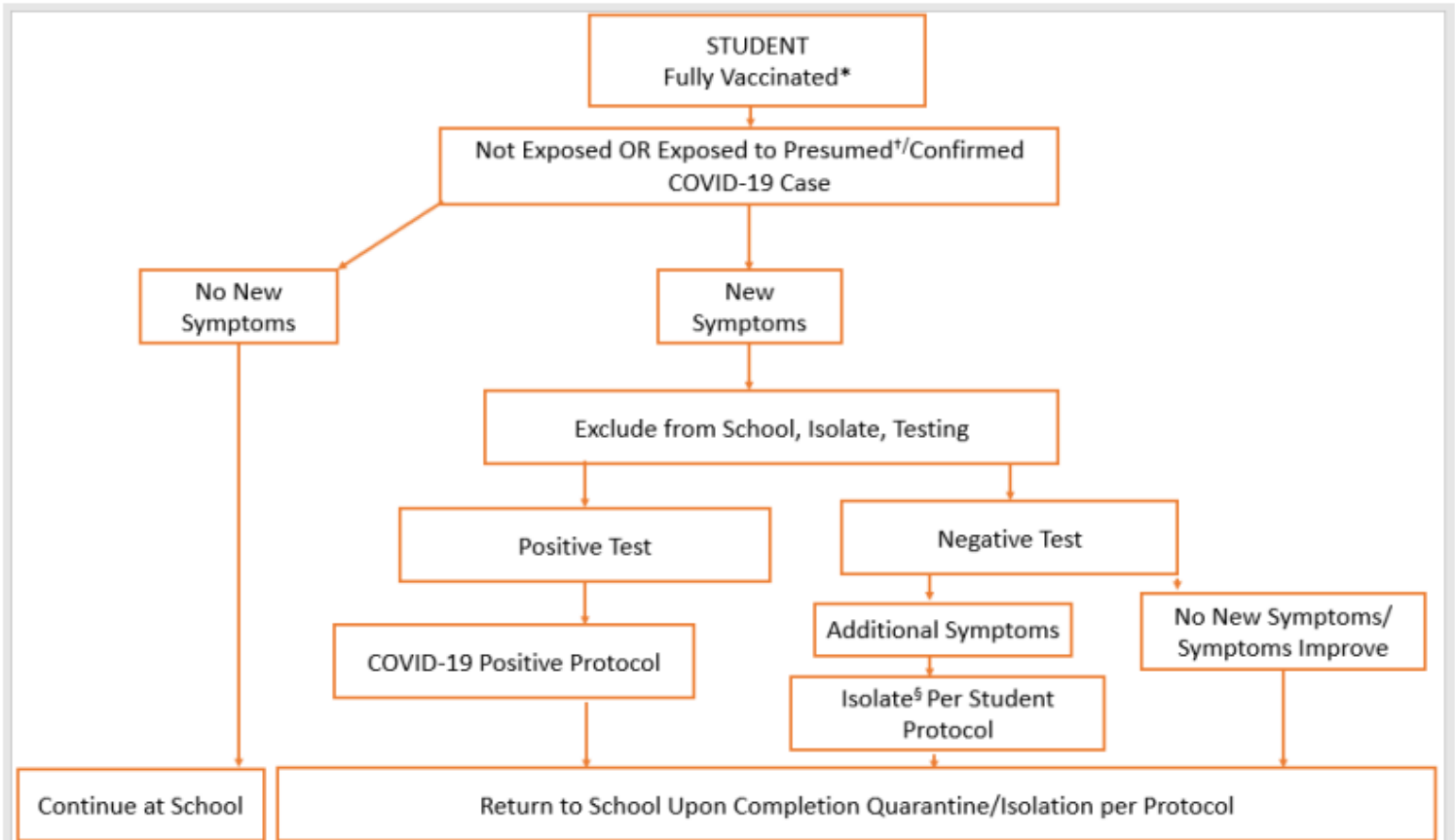
Schools should review their rules for visitors and family engagement activities.

Schools should limit nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations.

Schools should not limit access for direct service providers, but can ensure compliance with school visitor policies.

Schools should continue to emphasize the importance of staying home when sick. Anyone, including visitors, who have symptoms of infectious illness, such as flu or COVID-19, should stay home and seek testing and care.

# FULLY VACCINATED STUDENTS



Please see accompanying protocols for additional information

\*Fully vaccinated or confirmed COVID-19 positive within 90 days

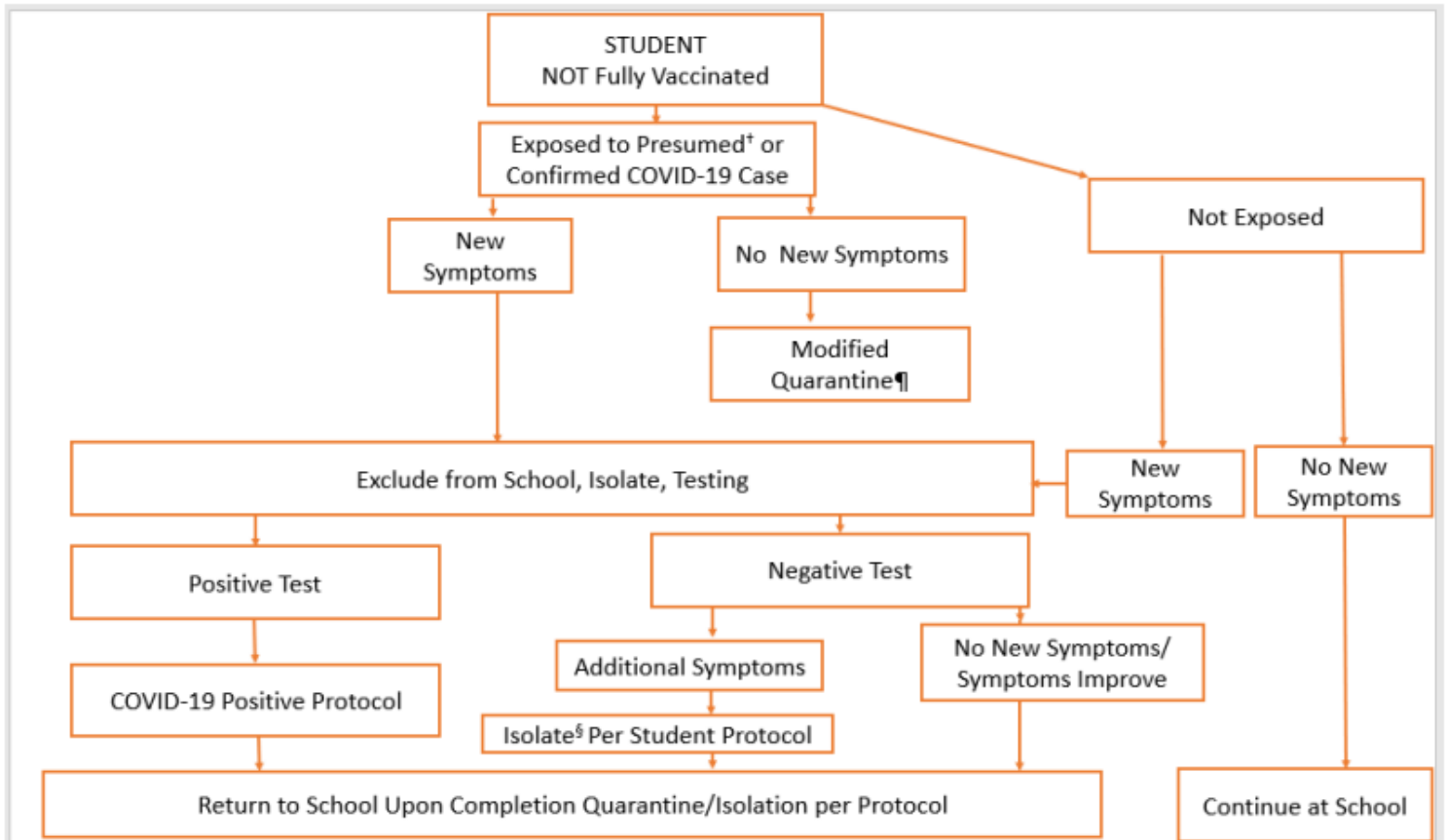
<sup>†</sup> If presumed positive case test is negative and exposed student's symptoms improve, they may be released from isolation and return to school if symptoms improve and is afebrile for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications.

<sup>‡</sup> For presumed positive case test that is negative or when no exposure has occurred, a student who continues to be symptomatic with no symptom improvement must continue to be excluded from school. An exposed student may be released from isolation and return to school if: COVID-19 test result is negative, and student symptoms have improved AND is afebrile for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications; OR a healthcare provider has provided documentation that the symptoms are typical of their underlying chronic condition; OR a healthcare provider has confirmed an alternative diagnosis; OR at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset.

Revised On November 16, 2021



# NOT FULLY VACCINATED STUDENTS



Please see accompanying protocols for additional information

\*Fully vaccinated or confirmed COVID-19 positive within 90 days

† If presumed positive case test is negative: An exposed student may discontinue quarantine and return to school if student continues to be asymptomatic and is afebrile for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications.

‡ For presumed positive case test that is negative or when no exposure has occurred, a student who continues to be symptomatic with no symptom improvement must continue to be excluded from school. An exposed student may be released from isolation and return to school if: COVID-19 test result is negative, and student symptoms have improved AND is afebrile for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications; OR a healthcare provider has provided documentation that the symptoms are typical of their underlying chronic condition; OR a healthcare provider has confirmed an alternative diagnosis; OR at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset.

¶ Modified Quarantine: Students who are exposed in a school setting and both parties were wearing a mask, a student can remain on campus if they continue to mask, remain asymptomatic, undergo twice weekly testing, and are excluded from all extracurricular activities.

Revised On November 16, 2021



# CONSIDERATIONS for PARTIAL or TOTAL CLOSURE

Riverside University Health Systems – Public Health

When staff members or students test positive for COVID-19, the District will contact the Riverside University Health Systems – Public Health. Riverside University Health Systems – Public Health will help the school determine if the classroom or school needs to be closed. Any school or District closure will be determined by Riverside University Health Systems – Public Health.



## WHAT HAPPENS TO LEARNING IF A CLASSROOM OR SCHOOL CLOSSES?

If a classroom or school needs to close, the students move to Independent Study with their existing teacher until they can return back to campus. When cleared to return, the students and teacher resume their on-campus learning in person.

## Additional Public Health Information:

Riverside University Department of Public Health (RUHS-PH) RUHS-PH for COVID-19 consultation and guidance email [rivco-schools@ruhealth.org](mailto:rivco-schools@ruhealth.org)

Department of Public Health (CDPH) [www.cdph.ca.gov](http://www.cdph.ca.gov)

Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE) <https://www.rcoe.us>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

Cleaning and Disinfection for Community Facilities

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schoolschildcare/index.htm><https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html>

Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Guidance and Resources

<https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/coronavirus/>

California Safe Schools for All

<https://schools.covid19.ca.gov/>

# STAY CONNECTED.



**Visit our website at:**

**[www.pvusd.us](http://www.pvusd.us)**

**Follow us on Social Media:**

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