

1. When is BinaxNOW testing appropriate?

Testing should be considered when a student has any of the symptoms listed in the COVID guidelines from IDPH and CDC. Symptomatic students should be tested with BinaxNOW. If the BinaxNOW antigen test is positive, the results stand. The student is considered positive for COVID and isolated. Their close contacts are quarantined. If a symptomatic student tests negative with BinaxNOW, the test must be followed with a PCR test for confirmation. Please refer to the Binax grid for students that have symptoms to determine specific isolated low risk symptoms that do not need a follow up PCR test.

2. When can a student return from quarantine at 10 days?

Although IDPH and CDC prefer a 14 day quarantine, they have allowed a provision for a 10 day quarantine in limited circumstances. If a student has been asymptomatic for the entire 10 days of quarantine and has a negative test (BinaxNOW or PCR) on day #10, the student may return to school for in school learning on day 11. The student must have enhanced monitoring for the remaining 4 days of quarantine, and must be sent home and tested if they become symptomatic.

3. When is antibody testing appropriate for exclusion from quarantine?

If a person has had COVID 19 in the past, or if they have lived in a home with a person who had COVID-19 in the past or had an exposure to a COVID-19 positive case prior, they can be tested for IgG antibodies. The presence of IgG antibodies to SARS CIV-2 must be determined by a certified laboratory such as Memorial Medical Center, St. John's Hospital, or the Springfield Clinic before the person can be considered immune. Please see link below:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/resources/antibody-tests-guidelines.html>

According to the Interim Guidelines For COVID-19 Antibody Testing, page 2, paragraph 3,

“Unvaccinated persons who have tested antibody positive within 3 months before or immediately following an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 and who have remained asymptomatic since the current exposure do not need to quarantine, provided there is limited or no contact with persons at high risk for severe COVID-19 illness, including older adults and persons with certain medical conditions.”

If the person has not had COVID-19 or never had a known close exposure to a COVID case in the past, they should not be testing for antibodies due to the chance of a positive case being a cross reaction to another coronavirus.

4. Who does NOT need to be quarantined?

Anyone who has had COVID-19 within the 90 days prior to the exposure.

A person who is FULLY vaccinated at the time the exposure occurs. (Fully vaccinated is defined as 14 days or more after the second Pfizer or Moderna vaccination or 14 days or more after the J&J vaccine.) Fully vaccinated people should continue to monitor for symptoms for 14 days after the exposure, however. If ANY COVID-19 symptoms should develop they should isolate, seek medical attention, and be tested.

A person who meets the criteria above for antibody testing and has a positive IgG does not have to quarantine.

5. What is the definition of a close contact?

Anyone who has been within 6 feet of a person with COVID-19 for 15 minutes or more cumulatively within a 24 hour period is considered a close contact and needs to be quarantined. There are instances where a person could be considered a close contact with an exposure of less than 15 minutes, however, that does not happen frequently and will be decided on a case by case basis.

6. Social distancing at 3 feet is now acceptable in schools. Does that change the definition of a close contact for children as 3 feet?

No. Social distancing of 3 feet is acceptable for children based on a new study by CDC. However, for the purpose of contact tracing, anyone within 6 feet of this infected person for more than 15 minutes is considered a close contact and needs to be isolated, with or without a mask.

7. What is needed for a quarantined student to return to school at 10 days?

Documentation from the parent that the child has not exhibited any COVID symptoms throughout the full 10 days, and a negative COVID test on day 10 would be needed to return to school. Antigen or PCR test is acceptable. No student will be allowed back to school early with symptoms, even with a note from a physician. Symptomatic students must remain out for the full 14 days and guidelines for a presumed positive case will be followed.

THIS DOCUMENT WILL BE FREQUENTLY UPDATED WITH QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS AS DISCUSSED IN THE PUBLIC HEALTH- SCHOOL GROUP MEETINGS.