

MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOLS USING THE MODIFIED QUARANTINE OPTION

Appendix AA

This document provides requirements and best practices for schools and parents and guardians concerning the option of modified quarantine in Long Beach schools. This option makes it possible for children who have been exposed to COVID-19 in the classroom or another school setting to continue attending school as long as certain conditions are met.

I. Important Information Regarding Modified Quarantine

Usually, if an unvaccinated person was identified as a “close contact” of someone who has COVID-19, that person must quarantine at home. A close contact is a person who either:

- Has been within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative of 15 minutes or more during a 24-hour period, or
- Has been in direct contact with the infected person’s body fluids (for example, coughed or sneezed on, shared a drink or eating utensils, kissed).

Now schools have a new option, called “modified quarantine” which would allow children to continue in-person instruction during regular school hours, while under the Health Officer Quarantine orders. This option is based on alignment with California Department of Public Health’s (CDPH) K-12 2021/22 School Guidance

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

II. For modified quarantine to be successful and safe, schools must adhere to the following strict rules if they choose the modified quarantine option:

1. Modified quarantine can only be considered if the exposure to infection occurred in a school setting where students are supervised by school staff (classroom, school grounds with school staff present, school bus).
2. Modified quarantine is only allowed in a school that is following California reporting guidelines as outlined in the [California Department of Public Health 2021-22 K12 Guidance](#):
 - a. Per Ca. Education Code Section 32090 and California Code Title 17, section 2500, schools are required to report COVID-19 cases to the local public health department.
 - b. Schools or LEAs should have a COVID-19 liaison to assist the local health department with contact tracing and investigation.
 - c. Ca. Education Code Section 32090 (a) (1) states that:

Upon learning that a school employee or pupil at a public or private school campus maintaining kindergarten or any of grades 1 to 12, inclusive, in the state has tested positive for COVID-19 and was present on campus while infectious, the school administrator or other person in charge of the public or private school shall immediately, and in no case later than 24 hours after learning of the positive case, notify the local health officer or the local health officer's representative about the positive case.

In addition, LBDHHS requires that if there are three (3) or more cases identified in a school setting, the health department should be immediately notified.

3. Reporting allows the Health Department to determine whether an outbreak is occurring and provide timely recommendations in order to prevent and control outbreaks and in school transmission.
4. Modified quarantine is only allowed if the exposed child does not have symptoms. They must monitor for symptoms daily, and if symptoms develop, the child cannot do modified quarantine. They must stay home and follow instructions for close contacts who develop symptoms while in quarantine.
5. The school must be able to state positively that both the infected child and the child identified as a close contact were correctly wearing masks the entire time of the close contact exposure. Because it is not possible to positively state that athletes wore masks at all times during an exposure (i.e., practice, competition, locker room, travel, etc.) exposures in athletic settings are not eligible for the modified quarantine option.
6. The exposed student is not part of a school outbreak. An outbreak is when spread has occurred between a group of three (3) persons or more at a school within a 14-day period. The risk of spread is much greater in an outbreak so modified quarantine for exposed students is not as safe.
7. The school must not allow close contacts to participate in extracurricular activities. The modified quarantine is meant to let children continue learning but does not cover other activities outside of the regular school curriculum.
8. Children who are covered by a modified quarantine order must wear a mask at all times on school grounds except when they are eating or drinking. At those times they must be at least six (6) feet from any other person and preferably outdoors.
9. Children who are covered by a modified quarantine order must be tested at least twice a week using an appropriate molecular test, either rapid antigen or PCR, done at the school site if the school has a testing program. One of the tests should be as soon as possible after the exposure (Day 1 or Day 2 in quarantine); the second should be at least three (3) days later, ideally on or after Day 5 so that your child can be released from quarantine after Day 7 (on Day 8) if they test negative.

III. How can parents help make modified quarantine an option for their child's school?

- Remember that modified quarantine is an option that a school can choose to allow. Your child's school can only choose to allow that option if all of the conditions listed above are met.
- Teach your child about the importance of wearing a mask and about the right way to use a mask.
- If your child is allowed to follow the modified quarantine option, remember that they are still under a [Public Health Emergency Quarantine Order](#). Your child must stay home at all times when not receiving in-person instruction.
- Cooperate with testing requirements if your child is identified as a close contact or has been exposed to an infected person in a school setting.