



Covid-19 Suspected or Confirmed Case Plan

DEFINITIONS FROM THE COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT:

COVID-like symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, fever, loss of taste/smell, fatigue, headache, sore throat, muscle or body aches, congestion/runny nose, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea. A person can be contagious before they start having symptoms, a person can also test positive without symptoms.

Isolation: staying home from work, school, and/or activities when a person is sick or diagnosed with COVID-19. Isolation lasts for at least 10 days after the onset of symptoms, 24 hours fever-free without fever reducing medication, and an improvement of symptoms. For people who have not had symptoms, isolation lasts 10 days from the day they had their first positive test. In rare instances, (for example, if a person was very sick or has certain medical problems), isolation may last 20 days. Repeat testing is not recommended to decide when to end the period of isolation.

Quarantine: staying home from work, school, and/or activities when a person is a close contact of someone with COVID-19. Quarantine lasts for 14 days (unless the person develops symptoms, then they will be put in isolation). Negative testing does not release a person from quarantine.

Social distancing: Maintaining at least 6 feet between each student, teacher, and staff member for as much of the school day as possible. During contact tracing, classroom contacts are considered exposed (and required to quarantine for 14 days), even if social distancing was practiced in the classroom. While 3 feet is an option within school cohorts/classrooms, 3 feet is not considered social distancing.

Confirmed outbreak definition:

If one or more criteria below are met, there is a confirmed outbreak. Outbreak response will vary by criteria met. All confirmed outbreaks will be posted on the CDPHE website at covid19.colorado.gov/data/outbreak-data.

1. **Classroom outbreak:** Two or more confirmed COVID-19 cases among students and teachers from separate households, with onset within 14 days.
2. **School-wide outbreak:** Two or more confirmed COVID-19 cases from separate households with onset within 14 days in the same school

Suspected outbreak definition

If one or more criteria below are met, there is a suspected outbreak. Outbreak response will vary by criteria met. Suspected outbreaks are not currently posted to the state website.

1. Classroom outbreak: One confirmed COVID-19 case and one or more probable cases among students and teacher
2. Single confirmed COVID-19 cases in both classes.
3. 10% absenteeism among expected in-person students in the whole school for any reason.

Responding to COVID-19 cases and outbreaks in school

Single cases	Response
One student or teacher with confirmed COVID-19 at the school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student stays home until released from isolation (usually 10 days after symptom onset, 24+ hours fever-free, and improving symptoms). • Class stays home for a 14-day quarantine, since this will include the teacher, school will be closed for 14 days. • Anticipate grade-wide or school-wide dismissal for several days while identification and notification of close contacts is ongoing. • Public health recommends testing of close contacts (~7 days after exposure or earlier if contact develops symptoms). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cost and logistics of testing is the responsibility of the individual, parent, or caregiver. CDPHE lab can test on a case-by-case basis. (Local public health should work with state public health epidemiology teams.)
One student or teacher with probable COVID-19 at the school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student stays home until released from isolation (usually 10 days after symptom onset, 24+ hours fever-free, and improving symptoms); recommend testing of the student • Anticipate grade-wide or school-wide dismissal for several days while public health identifies and notifies close contacts. • Public health recommends testing close contacts (about 7 days after exposure, or earlier if contact develops symptoms). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cost and logistics of testing is the responsibility of the individual, parent, or caregiver. The state public health lab can test on a case-by-case basis (Local public health should work with state public health epidemiology teams). Assess feasibility with local public health.

Confirmed outbreak

Single cases	Response
Two or more people from separate households with confirmed COVID-19, with onset within 14 days in a single	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All students and staff with COVID-19 stay home until released from isolation (usually 10 days after symptom onset, 24+ hours fever-free, and improving symptoms). • Class must quarantine for 14 days, since this includes the

Single cases	Response
classroom or cohort (<i>classroom/cohort outbreak</i>)	<p>teacher, school will be closed for 14 days.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public health recommends testing close contacts (about 7 days after exposure or earlier if contact develops symptoms). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cost and logistics of testing is the responsibility of the individual, parent, or caregiver. The state public health lab can test on a case-by-case basis. (Local public health should work with state public health epidemiology teams). Assess feasibility with local public health.

Suspected outbreak

Single cases	Response
One person with confirmed COVID-19 and one or more people with probable COVID-19, from multiple households with onset within 14 days in the school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All students and staff with COVID-19 stay home until released from isolation (usually 10 days after symptom onset, 24+ hours fever-free, and improving symptoms). • Class must quarantine for 14 days, since this includes the teacher, school will be closed for 14 days. • Public health investigation to determine if this meets the definition for a confirmed outbreak. • Public health recommends testing close contacts (about 7 days after exposure or earlier if contact develops symptoms). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cost and logistics of testing is the responsibility of the individual, parent, or caregiver. The state public health lab can test on a case-by-case basis (Local public health should work with state public health epidemiology teams). Assess feasibility with local public health.
Suspected Outbreak: 10% absenteeism (among expected in-person students and teacher) for any reason	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School collaborates with public health to determine whether there is an outbreak of COVID-19 or another pathogen. • Encourage testing of all symptomatic students and teacher • Cost and logistics of testing is the responsibility of the individual, parent, or caregiver. The state public health lab can test on a case-by-case basis (Local public health should work with state public health epidemiology teams).

Criteria for closures

Closing the school:

- There is a student or teacher with confirmed or probable COVID-19 in the class, because all members of the class will be quarantined for 14 days. Length of closure: 14 days.
- Because this includes the teacher, the school will be closed for 14 days. If one class closes or has confirmed or probable COVID-19, the school will close.
- There is a classroom outbreak, because all members of the class will be quarantined for 14 days. Length of closure: 14 days.

Case and outbreak reporting

Clinical labs and/or health care providers report cases to public health, which interviews the people who have COVID-19 and conducts contact tracing. However, schools also are encouraged to report single cases of COVID-19 to their local public health agency. We kindly request that the family report suspected or confirmed COVID-19 in their households directly to the school as well so we can avoid delays and additional exposure.

Schools are required to report all outbreaks to their local public health agency or to CDPHE within four hours per statute. Schools must report both suspected and confirmed outbreaks.

We will report outbreaks by:

- Completing the [CDPHE Outbreak reporting form](#) and emailing it to cdphe_covid_outbreak@state.co.us.
- Calling their [local public health agency](#).
- Calling CDPHE at 303-692-2700.

REFERENCES: CDPHE- 7-30-2020- <https://covid19.colorado.gov/for-lphas-health-care-providers/additional-guidance-resources/cases-and-outbreaks-in-schools>