

How COVID-19 vaccinations affect quarantine and isolation for schools



Getting vaccinated will help keep you, your family, and your community healthy and safe.

All COVID-19 vaccines authorized by the FDA are safe and effective at protecting you from the virus. They keep you from getting sick, needing to be hospitalized, and or dying from COVID-19. Recent studies¹ show the vaccines can prevent transmission of the virus to other people and work against the new variants of the virus identified so far. By getting vaccinated, you're helping to end the damage to our economy, prevent more deaths and illnesses, and stop COVID-19 from continuing to spread. Vaccines are how we get our lives back. [Learn more](#)



How do COVID-19 vaccinations affect quarantine and isolation guidelines?

You are considered fully immune, or protected from the virus, 2 weeks after your final dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. If you were exposed to the virus before you had the chance to get your final dose of the vaccine, or were exposed before your body developed full immunity, you can still get sick with COVID-19.

Two-dose vaccines: 2 weeks after 2nd shot (you need both shots to be fully protected).
One-dose vaccines: 2 weeks after shot (you only need one shot to be fully protected).

Most K-12 students won't be able to get vaccinated because they are too young to receive the vaccine. COVID-19 vaccines are only approved for people 16 years of age and older. The Pfizer vaccine is approved for people 16 years of age and older. The Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines are approved for people 18 years of age and older. Right now, quarantine and school testing protocols- (like Test to Play and Test to Stay) will most likely only impact school staff and teachers.



It's likely recommendations for testing, isolation, and quarantine will change as we learn more about COVID-19 vaccines.

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/science-briefs/fully-vaccinated-people.html>

Do I have to get tested for the Test to Play or Test to Stay school testing protocols if I've been vaccinated?

Have not been vaccinated yet	Have been partially vaccinated (had only 1 dose of a 2-dose vaccine like Pfizer or Moderna)
You must participate in the Test to Play or Test to Stay testing protocols outlined in the COVID-19 School Manual .	You must participate in the Test to Play or Test to Stay testing protocols outlined in the COVID-19 School Manual .

If you've had your final doses of the vaccine: (had 2 doses of Pfizer or Moderna vaccines or 1 dose of Johnson & Johnson vaccine)	
If it has NOT been 2 weeks since you were vaccinated	If it has been at least 2 weeks since you were vaccinated
You must participate in the Test to Play or Test to Stay testing protocols outlined in the COVID-19 School Manual .	You are not required to participate in the Test to Play or Test to Stay testing protocols outlined in the COVID-19 School Manual .

Do students, teachers, or school staff still need to quarantine if they are exposed to COVID-19 after being vaccinated?

If you haven't had your final dose of the vaccine and are exposed to someone who tests positive:	
Have not been vaccinated yet	Have been partially vaccinated (had only 1 dose of a 2-dose vaccine like Pfizer or Moderna)
<p>Quarantine and get tested for COVID-19.</p> <p>Students, teachers, and school staff should follow quarantine guidelines as outlined in the COVID-19 School Manual.</p>	<p>Quarantine and get tested for COVID-19.</p> <p>Students, teachers, and school staff should follow quarantine guidelines as outlined in the COVID-19 School Manual.</p>

If you've had your final dose of the vaccine and are exposed to someone who tests positive: (had 2 doses of Pfizer or Moderna vaccines or 1 dose of Johnson & Johnson vaccine)	
If it has NOT been 2 weeks since you were vaccinated	If it has been at least 2 weeks since you were vaccinated
<p>Quarantine and get tested for COVID-19.</p> <p>Students, teachers, and school staff should follow quarantine guidelines as outlined in the COVID-19 School Manual.</p>	<p>You don't need to quarantine. However, if you get symptoms of COVID-19 after you were exposed (which would be rare), you should isolate and talk to a doctor or healthcare provider. You may need to get tested for COVID-19.</p>

Do students, teachers, or school staff still need to get tested if they develop symptoms of COVID-19 after being vaccinated?

If you have symptoms of COVID-19 and:	
Have not been vaccinated yet	Have been partially vaccinated (had only 1 dose of a 2-dose vaccine like Pfizer or Moderna)
Isolate and get tested right away.	Isolate and get tested right away.

If you are fully vaccinated and have symptoms of COVID-19: (had 2 doses of Pfizer or Moderna vaccines or 1 dose of Johnson & Johnson vaccine)	
If it has NOT been 2 weeks since you were vaccinated	If it has been at least 2 weeks since you were vaccinated
Isolate and get tested right away.	Isolate and call your doctor or healthcare provider. It is likely that something other than COVID-19 is causing your symptoms. However, your doctor may want you to get tested for COVID-19. COVID-19 vaccines do not interfere with the accuracy of the test.

Do students, teachers, or school staff still need to isolate if they test positive for COVID-19 after being vaccinated?

Yes. You should isolate if you test positive or have symptoms of COVID-19, even if you have gotten both doses of the vaccine. The vaccines do not interfere with the accuracy of COVID-19 tests. This means if you test positive after you are vaccinated, you have COVID-19 and can spread the virus to others. This is rare but can happen. We know COVID-19 vaccines keep you from getting sick or having severe illness. However, we don't know yet if the vaccine will keep you from getting the virus altogether.

