

Family Q&A [English]

Why the move from a 10-day to a 5-day quarantine?

Our partners at the CDC, IDPH, and CDPH have made it clear that shifting to a 5-day quarantine period for staff and students is the most appropriate approach at this stage in the pandemic. This change is based on what we have now learned about the current dominant variant that causes COVID-19, which is that those who test positive are most likely to transmit the virus in the 1-2 days before symptoms appear and for 2-3 days after. Furthermore, shortening the quarantine/isolation period will provide more certainty to parents, students, and staff, and will allow impacted students to return to their classrooms more quickly for the in-person learning that gives them their best opportunity for success.

When will this change go into effect?

The shift from a 10-day to a 5-day quarantine will take effect on Tuesday, February 1, 2022. Students who were already isolating or quarantining as of this date will complete their original 10-day isolation or quarantine period. **Students and staff who are directed to isolate or quarantine on or after Tuesday, February 1, 2022 will only need to do so for five days.**

If my child tests positive for COVID-19, when can they return to school?

As long as the student is fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and symptoms have improved, students may return to school after 5 days of learning at home. As a reminder, Day 1 of a student's 5-day isolation begins on the day that symptoms started or the day AFTER they test positive for the virus. If the student is still feverish after Day 5, students should continue to isolate at home for the full 10 day period. You will receive information from your child's school that includes the date on which they may return to in-person learning. Children who have already tested positive for COVID-19 SHOULD NOT test again for 90 days, because they may continue testing positive long after they are no longer contagious.

If my child is identified as a close contact, do they need to quarantine?

This depends on if your child has been vaccinated against COVID-19.

- If they do not have symptoms, vaccinated students DO NOT need to quarantine if they have been identified as a close contact.
- Unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated students WILL need to quarantine for 5 days if they are identified as a close contact, regardless of if they are showing symptoms.

What if my child still has COVID-19 symptoms after 5 days?

If the student's symptoms have not improved or if they still have a fever after 5 days, they should continue to isolate at home for the full 10 day period.

Will my child still receive direct instruction from their teachers when they are quarantined?

Yes. Students who are directed to quarantine by the CPS Office of Student Health and Wellness (OSHW) will receive direct instruction from their teachers during their 5-day quarantine period. This instruction will continue if the student still has symptoms of COVID-19 after five days.

Does my child need a negative COVID-19 test to return to school after 5 days of isolation?

No. Students do not need to test negative for COVID-19 to return to school after their 5-day isolation period. In fact, children who have already tested positive for COVID-19 SHOULD NOT test again for 90 days, because they may continue testing positive long after they are no longer contagious.

Are there new safety protocols in place for students who return to school after the 5-day isolation period?

Yes. Students who return to school after the 5-day isolation period must wear a mask at all times on Days 6 through 10, including when outdoors, except when they are eating or drinking. When masks must be removed for eating and drinking, students will remain 6 feet apart from others whenever possible on days 6 through 10.

What are the rules if my child has a mask exemption?

Because of the need to enforce strict masking on Days 6 through 10, students who are isolated due to COVID-19 and who have a mask exemption will need to remain at home for the full 10-day isolation period.

How will this change impact how my student eats breakfast and lunch when they return to school?

Whenever possible, students who return to school after a 5-day isolation will be seated 6 feet apart from others when they take their masks off to eat and drink. This protocol will only be in place for Days 6 through 10 after students return to school.

***Will this new policy create any changes at recess?**

Students who return to school after a 5-day isolation will need to keep their masks on at all times except when eating or drinking, for Days 6 through 10. This will include those times when students go outside for recess.

***How will this change impact my child's ability to play sports or participate in other extracurricular activities?**

Students who return to school after a 5-day isolation are free to resume all of their activities as long as masks remain on at all times on Days 6 through 10.

Family Q&A [Spanish]

¿Por qué el cambio de 10 a 5 días de cuarentena?

Nuestros socios en el CDC, IDPH y CDPH han dejado en claro que el cambio a un período de cuarentena de 5 días para el personal y los estudiantes es el enfoque más apropiado en esta etapa de la pandemia. Este cambio se basa en lo que hemos aprendido ahora sobre la variante que causa el COVID-19, que es que los que dan positivo tienen más probabilidades de transmitir el virus en los 1-2 días antes de que aparezcan los síntomas y durante 2-3 días después. Además, la reducción del periodo de cuarentena/aislamiento proporcionará más seguridad a los padres, los estudiantes y el personal, y permitirá a los estudiantes afectados volver a sus aulas más rápidamente para el aprendizaje en persona que les da la mejor oportunidad de éxito.

¿Cuándo entrará en vigor este cambio?

El cambio de una cuarentena de 10 días a una de 5 días entrará en vigor el martes 1 de febrero de 2022. Los estudiantes que ya estaban aislados o en cuarentena a partir de esta fecha completarán su período original de aislamiento o cuarentena de 10 días. Los estudiantes y el personal a los que se les indique que se aislen o pongan en cuarentena a partir del martes 1 de febrero de 2022 sólo tendrán que hacerlo durante cinco días.

Si mi hijo da positivo en la prueba de COVID-19, ¿cuándo podrá volver a la escuela?

Siempre y cuando el estudiante no tenga fiebre durante 24 horas sin el uso de medicamentos antifebriles y los síntomas hayan mejorado, los estudiantes pueden regresar a la escuela después de 5 días de aprendizaje en casa. Como recordatorio, el día 1 de los 5 días de aislamiento de un estudiante comienza el día en que comenzaron los síntomas o el día DESPUÉS de haber dado positivo en la prueba del virus. Si el estudiante sigue teniendo fiebre después del día 5, debe seguir aislado en casa durante todo el período de 10 días. Recibirá información de la escuela de su hijo que incluye la fecha en la que puede volver a aprender en persona. Los niños que ya han dado positivo en la prueba de COVID-19 NO DEBEN hacerse la prueba de nuevo durante 90 días, ya que pueden seguir dando positivo mucho después de haber dejado de ser infectados.

Si mi hijo es identificado como un contacto cercano, ¿es necesario ponerlo en cuarentena?

Esto depende de si su hijo ha sido vacunado contra COVID-19.

Si no tienen síntomas, los estudiantes vacunados NO necesitan estar en cuarentena si han sido identificados como un contacto cercano.

Los estudiantes no vacunados o no totalmente vacunados, tendrán que estar en cuarentena durante 5 días si son identificados como un contacto cercano, independientemente de si están mostrando síntomas.

¿Qué pasa si mi hijo sigue teniendo síntomas de COVID-19 después de 5 días?

Los estudiantes que siguen mostrando síntomas de COVID-19 después de 5 días de aislamiento deben seguir aislados en casa durante el período completo de 10 días.

¿Mi hijo seguirá recibiendo instrucción directa de sus profesores cuando esté en cuarentena?

Sí, los estudiantes a los que la Oficina de Salud y Bienestar Estudiantil (OSHW) de CPS les indique que se pongan en cuarentena recibirán instrucción directa de sus maestros durante su período de cuarentena de 5 días. Esta instrucción continuará si el estudiante todavía tiene síntomas de COVID-19 después de cinco días.

¿Necesita mi hijo un resultado negativo en la prueba de COVID-19 para volver a la escuela después de 5 días de aislamiento?

No. No es necesario que los estudiantes den negativo en la prueba de COVID-19 para volver a la escuela después de su período de aislamiento de 5 días. De hecho, los niños que ya han dado positivo en la prueba de COVID-19 NO DEBEN hacerse la prueba de nuevo durante 90 días, porque pueden seguir dando positivo mucho después de haber dejado de ser contagiosos.

¿Existen nuevos protocolos de seguridad para los estudiantes que regresan a la escuela después del período de aislamiento de 5 días?

Sí, los alumnos que regresen a la escuela después del período de aislamiento de 5 días deben llevar una mascarilla en todo momento durante los días 6 a 10, incluso cuando estén al aire libre, excepto cuando estén comiendo o bebiendo. Cuando deban quitarse las mascarillas para comer y beber, los estudiantes permanecerán a 6 pies de distancia de los demás siempre que sea posible durante los días 6 a 10.

¿Cuáles son las reglas si mi hijo tiene una exención de mascarilla?

Debido a la necesidad de aplicar un estricto enmascaramiento en los días 6 a 10, los estudiantes que estén aislados debido a la COVID-19 y que tengan una exención de mascarilla deberán permanecer en casa durante todo el período de aislamiento de 10 días.

¿Cómo afectará este cambio a la forma en que mi estudiante desayune y almuerce cuando regrese a la escuela?

Siempre que sea posible, los alumnos que vuelvan a la escuela después de un aislamiento de 5 días se sentarán a 6 pies de distancia de los demás cuando se quiten las mascarillas para comer y beber. Este protocolo sólo se aplicará durante los días 6 a 10 después de que los alumnos vuelvan a la escuela.

***¿Esta nueva política creará algún cambio en el recreo?**

Los estudiantes que regresen a la escuela después de un aislamiento de 5 días tendrán que mantener las mascarillas puestas en todo momento, excepto cuando coman o beban, durante los días 6 a 10. Esto incluirá los momentos en que los estudiantes salgan al recreo.

***¿Cómo afectará este cambio a la capacidad de mi hijo para practicar deportes o participar en otras actividades extracurriculares?**

Los estudiantes que regresen a la escuela después de un aislamiento de 5 días son libres de reanudar todas sus actividades siempre y cuando las mascarillas permanezcan puestas en todo momento durante los días 6 a 10.

Staff Q&A

Why the move from a 10-day to a 5-day quarantine?

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When will this change go into effect?

The shift from a 10-day to a 5-day quarantine will take effect on Tuesday, February 1, 2022. Students and staff who were already isolating or quarantining as of this date will complete their original 10-day isolation or quarantine period. Students and staff who are directed to isolate or quarantine on or after Tuesday, February 1, 2022 will only need to do so for five days.

If I test positive for COVID-19, when can I return to work?

If you are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and if symptoms have improved, staff may return to school after 5 days. As a reminder, Day 1 of the isolation period begins on the date of first symptoms or the day AFTER a person tests positive for the virus. If still feverish after Day 5, staff members should continue to isolate at home for the full 10 day period. You will receive information from CPS that includes the date on which you may return to work.

If I DO NOT test positive for COVID-19 but am identified as a close contact, do I need to quarantine?

This depends on if you have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

- If you do not have symptoms and are fully vaccinated, you DO NOT need to quarantine if you have been identified as a close contact.
- Staff who are not fully vaccinated WILL need to quarantine for 5 days if they are identified as a close contact, regardless of whether they are showing symptoms or not.

Am I considered fully vaccinated under this new policy?

As of February 1, 2022, CPS staff will be considered fully vaccinated if:

- They are two weeks past both doses of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine PLUS a booster if it has been more than 5 months since the second dose of the primary vaccine series.

- They are two weeks past the single dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine PLUS a booster if it has been more than 2 months since their primary vaccine.

What happens if my doctor tells me that I should not receive the COVID-19 vaccine?

Staff who are at risk of severe illness due to COVID-19 and who are unable to receive a vaccination or booster may apply for an unpaid leave of absence that will last through the third academic quarter. Please visit HR4U to complete the application for a discretionary leave by Tuesday, **February 1**, and be prepared to provide the medical reason that you are unable to be vaccinated from your healthcare provider **by Thursday, February 9**. **Employees with** questions about unpaid leave can contact cpsloa@cps.edu.

How do I report to CPS that I've received my booster?

Staff may report their booster information at <http://cps.edu/booster>. The deadline by which all eligible employees must report their booster status is March 1, 2022.

What if I still have COVID-19 symptoms after 5 days of isolation?

Staff who are still feverish after 5 days of isolation should remain at home to complete 10 full days.

Will I be allowed to work from home while I am isolating or quarantining?

Yes. As long as they are feeling well, staff will be expected to work from home while in isolation or quarantine.

Do I need a negative COVID-19 test to return to school after 5 days of isolation?

No. Staff Do not need to test negative for COVID-19 to return to work after their 5-day isolation period. In fact, individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 SHOULD NOT continue to test, because they may continue testing positive long after they are no longer contagious.

Are there new safety protocols in place for students and staff who return to school after the 5-day quarantine period?

Yes. Students and staff who return to school after the 5-day isolation period must wear a mask at all times on Days 6 through 10, including when outdoors, except when they are eating or drinking. When masks must be removed for eating and drinking, students and staff will remain 6 feet apart from others whenever possible on days 6 through 10.