



Guidance for Schools Regarding COVID-19 Infection and Exposure

The purpose of the guidance is to help schools determine next steps when being notified that a person has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or has been exposed to a person diagnosed with COVID-19. This guidance is not intended to replace medical evaluation or any other recommendations by the [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](https://www.cdc.gov) or the [California Department of Public Health \(CDPH\)](https://www.cdph.ca).

All information is subject to change.

BACKGROUND

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is an infection caused by a virus that can spread from person to person through respiratory droplets when a person coughs or sneezes. While it is primarily spread by coming into close contact (about 6 feet) of a person who is infected with COVID-19, it may also be spread by touching a surface with the virus on it and then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes.

There is currently no vaccine to protect against COVID-19. The best way to protect yourself is to avoid being exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19. This includes staying home as much as possible, avoiding close contact with others, cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surface, and washing your hands with soap and water or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

Anyone who is ill should stay home. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. Symptoms of COVID-19 include, but are not limited to:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Everyone is at risk of getting COVID-19, but some people are at higher risk for more severe illness, including hospitalization and death. Persons who are at higher risk include those who are over 65 years of age and people with [serious underlying medical conditions](#), particularly if not well controlled. More details regarding people who may be at higher risk can be found online at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html>.

When a Student/Employee Tests Positive for COVID-19



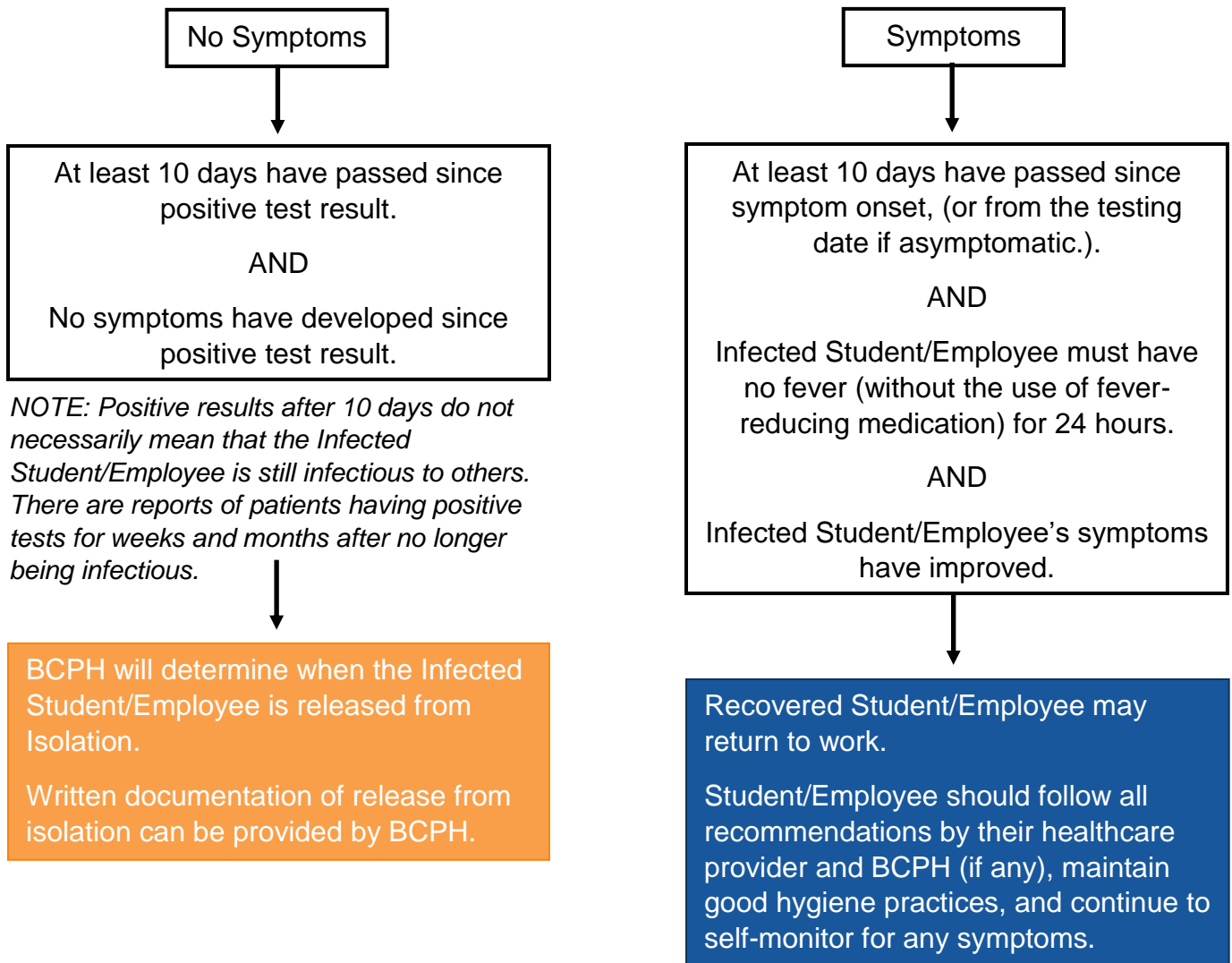
Based on the CDC's [Cleaning and Disinfecting](#), and [Discontinuation of Home Isolation](#) <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/return-to-work.html>

- Legend**
- School
 - BCPH
 - Collaboration

Returning to School after Testing Positive for COVID-19

Infected Students/Employees who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 may not return to work until they meet the CDC criteria for discontinuation of isolation. Butte County Public Health (BCPH) will utilize the following Symptom/Time based strategy.

BCPH determines if the patient had symptoms consistent with a COVID-19 infection regardless if it is before or after testing.



Based on the CDC's [Cleaning and Disinfecting](#), and [Discontinuation of Home Isolation](#)
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/return-to-work.html>

Legend

School

BCPH

Individual

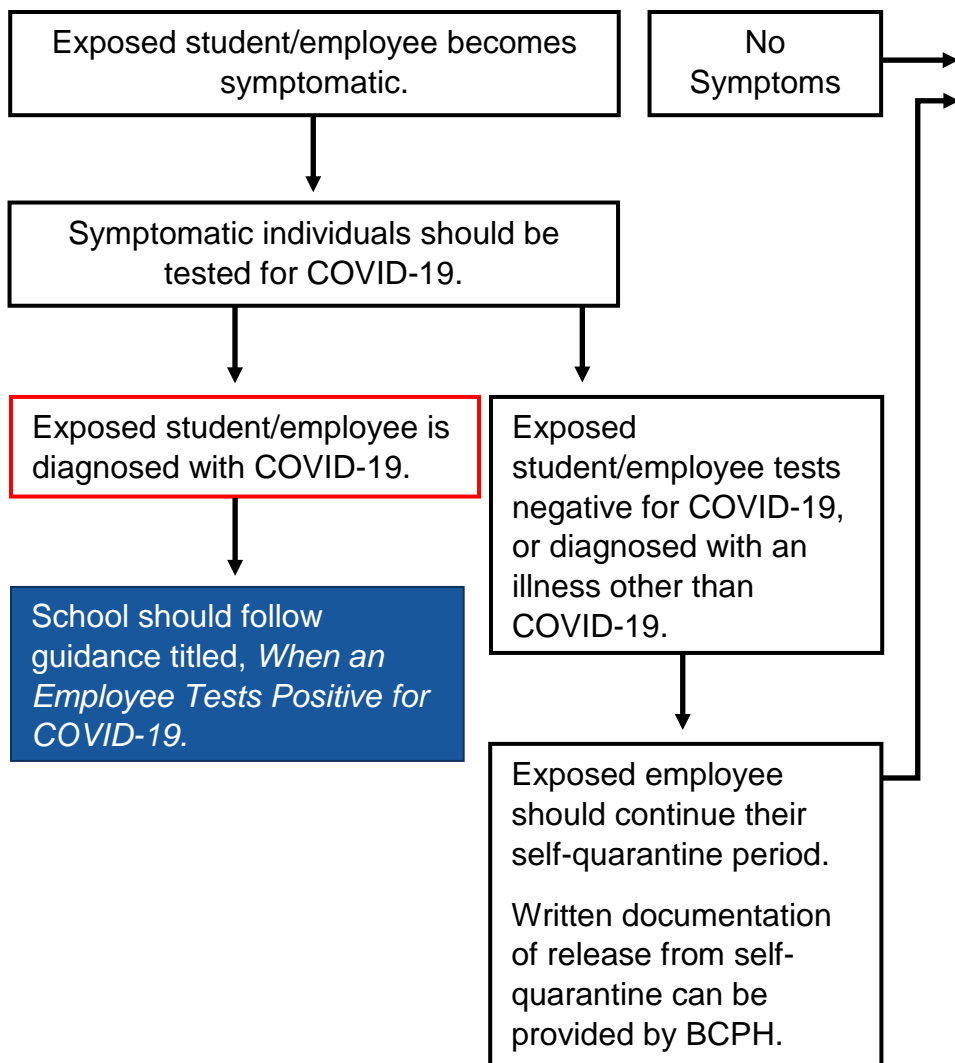
Close Contacts to a Lab-confirmed COVID-19 Case

Butte County Public Health will provide follow up to close contacts. Close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of a person during their infectious period for 15 minutes or longer. This can occur 2 days before symptoms appear or the positive test is collected, and during the first 10 days from symptom onset or the positive COVID-19 test.

BCPH will monitor Student/Employee for symptoms during their quarantine period. It is recommended that all those in quarantine get tested for COVID-19 on day 3 to 5 and day 14 of their quarantine period.

Allow exposed student/employee to learn/work remotely during self-quarantine if able to from home.

Allow exposed student/employee to return to school 14 days after their last exposure to the person who tested positive as long as they remain asymptomatic.



Based on the CDC's [Public Health Recommendations for Community-Related Exposure](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/public-health-recommendations.html), <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/public-health-recommendations.html>

Legend

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