

School COVID-19 Protocols 2021-2022

The Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment (PDPHE) is tasked with protecting the health and welfare of the residents of Pueblo County by investigating and controlling the causes of epidemic and communicable diseases. Pursuant to the provisions of Colorado Revised Statutes 25-1.5-102 section (1)(a) and (c), PDPHE has, in addition to all other powers and duties imposed upon it by law, *(a) the powers and duties to investigate and control the causes of epidemic and communicable diseases affecting public health, (c) to establish, maintain, and enforce isolation and quarantine, and, in pursuance thereof and for this purpose only, to exercise such physical control over property and the person of the people within this state as the department may find necessary for the protection of the public health.* These powers and duties pertain to all communicable diseases including COVID-19.

Requirements

Reporting of Cases and Outbreaks

Schools in Pueblo County are required to report all confirmed, probable, or suspected cases of a communicable disease, including COVID-19, and whether those cases are a part of an outbreak to PDPHE as soon as possible, preferably within one working day.

Management of Fully Vaccinated Asymptomatic Individuals

An individual is considered fully vaccinated 14 days after their final dose of COVID-19 vaccine. A fully vaccinated asymptomatic staff member, student, volunteer, parent, or visitor does not need to quarantine at home after exposure to COVID-19 but must continue to watch for symptoms consistent with COVID-19 for 14 days after their exposure and properly wear an approved face covering for the duration of the 14 days. **Individuals who are experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19 must be excluded and referred for testing, regardless of vaccination status.**

1. A 14-day at-home quarantine is the preferred method of transmission reduction, especially for those who have high risk contact with other individuals.
 - a. An individual who is less than 14 days from receiving their final dose of COVID-19 vaccine at the time of exposure is considered partially vaccinated and will be required to quarantine, as well as those individuals who are unvaccinated.

Isolation of individuals with a positive COVID-19 result or experiencing symptoms

Any staff member, student, volunteer, parent, or visitor who is positive for COVID-19 must be excluded immediately and instructed to self-isolate at home for 10 days from symptom onset or date of a positive test result.

1. Any staff member, student, volunteer, parent, or visitor who has symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should be excluded immediately, referred for evaluation by a licensed provider, and referred for COVID-19 testing. drive.google.com/file/d/1nhgGlbakyAJY3XJ2TW44sw7btXXqISBR/view
2. Symptoms include fever or feeling feverish, chills, sweats, runny nose, sore throat, changes in the ability to smell and/or taste, headache, body aches, cough, wheezing, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, chest pain, nausea, or vomiting, abdominal pain, diarrhea, nasal congestion, dehydration, or confusion.

3. If the COVID-19 positive person was symptomatic, they are required to meet the following three criteria before the release of isolation: 1) Completion of the entire 10-day isolation period, 2) Be fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medications, and 3) Show symptomatic improvement.
4. If the COVID-19 positive person never had symptoms but tested positive, they are still required to isolate at home for 10 days after the positive sample was taken.
5. Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 and have severe underlying immunosuppression are required to complete a 20-day isolation period. After 20 days, they may discontinue isolation if they have met the criteria listed above in (3) after completing 20 days of isolation.
6. Individuals who are symptomatic and do not meet all three criteria listed above in (3) must continue to self-isolate at home away from other household members until all three criteria can be met.
7. Individuals with compatible symptoms who are awaiting test results must self-isolate at home away from others and may not discontinue isolation early without an alternate diagnosis from a licensed healthcare provider or a negative PCR test.

Contact Tracing individuals who were exposed

Schools are required to assist PDPHE with contact tracing following a positive COVID-19 exposure. Using seating charts for a targeted contact tracing approach, the names and contact information for any staff members, students, volunteers, parents, or visitors who had contact with the positive or symptomatic individual are required to be provided to the PDPHE school liaison as soon as possible, preferable within one (1) working day. The school should notify individuals, and families if needed, of their exposure to a positive COVID-19 case and exclude unvaccinated or incompletely vaccinated individuals.

Quarantine of exposed individuals

With the school's help, PDPHE will continue to investigate every case and treat each exposure as a unique situation to determine individual/cohort risk. Any staff member, student, volunteer, parent, or visitor who has had high-risk close contact during a routine classroom exposure with someone who tests positive or symptomatic and is unvaccinated or partially vaccinated will be required to quarantine for 14 days from the date of their last contact with that person. It may take 2-14 days after exposure to determine whether the exposed person has been infected with the virus that causes COVID-19. Attending extracurricular activities, sports, clubs, or other non-routine classroom or work activities is not allowed until after completion of the 14-day quarantine period.

1. If the facility has implemented and enforces, at a minimum, all of the following prevention strategies according to Public Health Order effective August 27, 2021 requiring facial coverings indoors: promoting of vaccinations, requiring of consistent and correct use of universal indoor facial coverings, physical distancing to the extent possible, comprehensive symptom screening, maintaining proper ventilation, good hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette, exclusion of ill individuals, promotion of timely testing, conducting contact tracing, and routine cleaning and disinfection, then the following can occur:

Activity	Risk of Exposure	Action
Living in the same household as a person who is positive for COVID-19 and being able to separate.	High Risk	14-day at home quarantine for unvaccinated/partially vaccinated. Return to work or school on day 15.
Having direct exposure to saliva or respiratory droplets from an infected person (e.g.- eating/drinking/sharing utensils, lunch, kissing).	High Risk	14-day at home quarantine for unvaccinated/partially vaccinated. Return to work or school on day 15.
Providing direct care to someone or exposed to bodily fluids of a positive person with COVID-19 without adequate personal protective equipment (PPE).	High Risk	14-day at home quarantine for unvaccinated/partially vaccinated. Return to work or school on day 15.

Activity	Risk of Exposure	Action
Unvaccinated/partially vaccinated individuals who have continuous high-risk exposure at home due to inability to physically separate from a positive or symptomatic person.	High Risk	Extended home quarantine period. Completion of 10-day isolation period of positive person followed by a 14-day at home quarantine for unvaccinated/partially vaccinated. Return to work or school on day 25.
Being indoors less than 12 feet from a positive person and engaged in a high intensity physical activity or where aerosolization is more likely to occur (e.g.- PE, sports, band, choir, etc.) and without a face covering or improperly wearing a face covering or wearing an unapproved face covering improperly, for 15 minutes or more total time within a 24-hour period.	High Risk	14-day quarantine for unvaccinated/partially vaccinated individuals. 10-day at home quarantine, return to school or work on days 11-14 if asymptomatic, while wearing a mask and symptom monitoring.
Being less than 6 feet from a positive person during a routine classroom exposure, without a face covering or improperly wearing a face covering or wearing an unapproved face covering, for 15 minutes or more total time within a 24-hour period	Medium Risk	14-day quarantine for unvaccinated/partially vaccinated individuals. 10-day at home quarantine, return to school or work on days 11-14 if asymptomatic, while wearing a mask and symptom monitoring.
Being less than 3 feet from a positive person during a routine classroom exposure, while both the positive case and the exposed person are properly wearing a face covering, for 15 minutes or more total time within a 24-hour period.	Medium Risk	14-day quarantine for unvaccinated/partially vaccinated individuals. Without testing: 10-day at home quarantine, return to school or work on days 11-14 if asymptomatic, while wearing a mask and symptom monitoring. With testing: 7-day at home quarantine, receive a negative test during days 5-7, return to school or work on days 8-14 if asymptomatic while wearing a mask and symptom monitoring.
Asymptomatic fully vaccinated individuals with exposure to a positive or symptomatic person.	Low Risk	14-day symptom monitoring while properly wearing a face covering.
Recovered asymptomatic individuals with an exposure to a positive or symptomatic person and are within 90 days of their positive (molecular or antigen) test.	Low Risk	14-day symptom monitoring while properly wearing a face covering.
Being greater than 3 feet from a positive or symptomatic person, for 15 minutes or more total time within a 24-hour period, while both the positive case and the exposed person are properly wearing a face covering.	Low Risk	14-day symptom monitoring while properly wearing a face covering.

2. All unvaccinated or partially vaccinated individuals who experience an exposure are not allowed to attend or participate in extracurricular activities, sports, clubs, or other non-routine classroom or work activities until after completion of the 14- day quarantine period.

3. Targeted contact tracing may be used to identify individuals who experience a high or medium risk routine classroom exposure, if seating charts and cohorting is implemented. Refer back to table above.
4. In pre-k, kindergarten and childcare it may be difficult to target contact trace or cohort. Contact Public Health Liaison at PDPHE for guidance.
5. If the individual is outdoors and exposed to a positive or symptomatic individual while being within six (6) feet for 15 minutes or more total time within a 24-hour period, contact PDPHE to determine risk of exposure.

Return to School

A staff member, student, volunteer, parent, or visitor with COVID-19 may return to the facility when they meet the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) *Discontinuation of Home Isolation Criteria*. A close contact may return to the in-person classroom/work school setting when they meet the release of quarantine criteria outlined above in the section Quarantine of exposed individuals.

1. If the positive person was symptomatic, completed their full 10-day isolation period, have been fever-free for a full 24 hours without fever reducing medications, and are now showing symptomatic improvement, they may return to the in-person classroom/work school setting on day 11 after symptom onset.
2. If the positive person never had symptoms, but still tested positive, they may return to the in-person classroom/work school setting on day 11 after the positive sample was taken, if they remain asymptomatic.
3. Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 and have severe underlying immunosuppression may return to the in-person classroom/work school setting on day 21 after completing a 20-day at home isolation period, if they have also been fever-free for 24-hours without fever reducing medications and are showing symptomatic improvement.
4. Individuals who are symptomatic and do not meet all three criteria must continue to self-isolate at home away from other household members until all three criteria, mentioned above in (1), (2), and (3), can be met.
5. Staff members, students, volunteers, parents, or visitors who have compatible symptoms and a negative test may not discontinue isolation early without an alternate diagnosis from a licensed healthcare provider.
6. Staff members, students, volunteers, parents, or visitors who are identified as a close contact may not discontinue the 14-day quarantine requirements outlined in the section above Quarantine of exposed individuals early with a negative test result.

School Transportation

CDC's [order](#) (42 U.S.C. 264(a) and 42 CFR 70.2, 71.31(b), and 71.32(b)) requires all persons using public transportation including school buses to wear a well fitted mask that completely covers the persons nose and mouth. Passengers and drivers must wear a mask on school buses, including on buses operated by public and private school systems, regardless of vaccination status, subject to the exclusions and exemptions in CDC's Order.

Outbreaks, Class Exclusion, and School Closures

A school outbreak will be defined as five (5) or more positive or probable cases in a school (antigen or PCR positive). Schools with greater than or equal to 5% of the population positive for COVID-19 will be closed for 14 days. School outbreaks may be considered resolved when two full incubation periods (28 days for COVID-19) have passed with no new positive or symptomatic individuals. Schools in outbreak status are required to work with the PDPHE school liaison and send line lists to PDPHE at pueblohealthcdteam@pueblocounty.com weekly, or as changes occur, no later than 12:00 p.m. each Monday. Outbreak report forms will also be required twice during the outbreak-once at the beginning when the outbreak is identified, and again when the outbreak is being closed for public health follow-up.