



Monterey County Office of Education

Leadership, Support, and Service to Prepare All Students for Success

*Dr. Deneen Guss
County Superintendent of Schools*

January 11, 2024

TO: District Superintendents and Charter School Leaders

FROM: Brett W. McFadden, Deputy Superintendent, MCOE
Michelle C. Archuleta, Director of Compliance

RE: **COVID Isolation and Testing Guidance Updated**

On Tuesday, January 9, 2024, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), released **updated** “**COVID Isolation and Testing Guidance.**” The intent of this communication is to provide Monterey County Local Education Agencies (LEAs) an overview of the updated guidance along with a set of links local leaders may reference for additional information. LEA leaders are encouraged to share this information with appropriate staff members in their agencies.

Updated COVID Isolation and Testing Guidance from CDPH:

As we continue to transition and incorporate our public health response to SARS-CoV-2 infection into broader activities to protect our communities from circulating respiratory viruses, we are focused on interventions for those most at risk of severe illness, while minimizing the disruptive impact of isolation in schools and workplaces. CDPH has made updates to its testing and isolation guidance that move to a symptom-based exclusion approach.

The following are links with more information provided by CDPH:

- [COVID-19 Isolation Guidance \(ca.gov\)](#)
- [Isolation Q&A \(ca.gov\)](#)
- [Updated COVID-19 Testing Guidance \(ca.gov\)](#)
- CalOSHA Reference Documents have also been updated today:
 - [COVID-19 Prevention Non-Emergency Regulations \(ca.gov\)](#)
 - [UPDATE: COVID-19 Prevention - Non-Emergency Regulation What Employers Need to Know Executive Summary \(ca.gov\)](#)

What is the impact of this COVID Isolation Guidance update to schools and childcare settings?

- The updated guidance will allow individuals to follow a more symptom-based approach as they usually do for other illnesses. For example, a child or staff member with COVID-19 can now return to school or a childcare setting if their symptoms are mild and improving and they have had no fever for 24 hours instead of staying home for 5 days.

MCOE will continue to coordinate with state and local public health officials. We will provide updated information and guidance as it becomes available. **We intend to provide further information on this at our next Safety Coalition work group meeting scheduled for Friday, January 26 from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.** [Safety Coalition Work Group Meeting zoom link](#)

In the meantime, please contact either of the following individuals for additional information and/or assistance on these matters:

- Brett W. McFadden, MCOE Deputy Superintendent - bmcfadden@montereycoe.org
- Michelle Archuleta, MCOE Director of Compliance - marchuleta@montereycoe.org

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to provide safe and healthy schools in Monterey County.