

Summary of Significant Updates

Updates to the Hawaii State Department of Education's COVID-19 Health and Safety Guidance are categorized into three areas: Additions (new content added), Updates (updates to existing content) and Deletions (removal of outdated content). The bolded text refers to the corresponding section headers in the guidance document.

Rev. Oct. 8, 2021

Updates

- **Stay Home When Sick:** Updated guidance has been provided for individuals who are fully vaccinated, previously infected with COVID-19 and recovered in the last 90 days, and asymptomatic individuals who are getting tested for COVID-19 for documentation purposes.
- **Masks:** Must be worn when indoors and outdoors at a HIDOE facility.
- **Food service and school meals:** Updated school and district points of contact in the event of a positive COVID-19 case that disrupts meal service.
- **School buses and vehicles:** Updated mask, ventilation and loading guidance on school buses and vehicles.
- **Visitors:** All visitors and contractors must comply with Governor Ige's emergency proclamation when entering, working or providing services in any state facility, including public schools, for longer than 10 minutes.
- **Communications:** More detailed guidance on school community notification of a positive case on campus.
- **Response Procedures for Cases of COVID-19:** Updated instructions and hyperlinks for the steps that should be taken starting Oct. 11, 2021. Revised phone number for DOH Honolulu County.
- **When Close Contacts Are Identified at School:** Updated testing recommendations for close contacts who are unvaccinated or fully vaccinated.
- **Diagnostic Testing:** Testing recommendations and more information on offering diagnostic testing at school.

Additions

- **Promoting Vaccination:** The definition of being fully vaccinated. Information on potential side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine. When to get vaccinated following recent exposure or infection.
- **Masks:** Guidance on when masks may be temporarily removed and taking a mask break. When not wearing a face mask, other mitigation strategies must be implemented to the greatest extent possible due to the increased risk for transmission of infection.
- **Cleaning and Disinfection:** The request for PPE section includes the addition of industrial hygiene (IH) supplies, a new questionnaire to flag a need for additional

supplies and an appointed logistics coordinator who will manage their respective office or school's PPE and IH supplies.

- **Travel:** Information and protocol for student travelers.
 - **When Close Contacts Are Identified at School:** Information for close contacts recovered from COVID-19 in the last 90 days.
 - **Response Procedures for Cases of COVID-19:** Report the case to the DOH using the new online case report form. If the case visited multiple campuses, it should only be reported to the DOH one time. The individual's supervisor or the program contract manager is responsible for reporting the case to the DOH.
 - **When Someone Becomes Sick or Receives a Positive Diagnosis at School:** Steps to take when someone receives a positive diagnosis at school.
 - **Reporting a Potential Outbreak:** Additional information on DOH and HIDEOE working collaboratively to identify any potential clusters involving schools.
 - **When Someone Has Recovered from COVID-19 in the Last 90 Days:** protocols for screening testing, close contact, new symptoms, and vaccination.
 - **Testing as a Mitigation Strategy:** In partnership with DOH and health service providers, schools may consider offering COVID-19 testing for staff, contracted service providers, students and their families. To fulfill the COVID-19 test requirement for return to school/work, an antigen or PCR test taken through a CLIA-certified laboratory or under an approved CLIA Certificate of Waiver will be accepted.
 - **Diagnostic Testing:** Use a PCR test as the final diagnosis.
 - **Screening Testing:** Information and next steps based on antigen test results which is considered a screening test.
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As of Aug. 18, 2021

Additions

- **Masks:** Guidance and accommodations for individuals who cannot wear a mask at school due to medical reasons.
- **Visitors:** Must complete a Daily Wellness Check.
- **Travel:** Information from the July 1, 2021 memo for public reference and additional details to facilitate implementation of the student travelers requirements.
- **Students or Staff Who Become Sick at School:** Siblings may continue to attend school if asymptomatic and with no known exposure to someone positive with COVID-19.

Updates

- **Stay Home When Sick:** Fully vaccinated and asymptomatic individuals do not have to quarantine following exposure to COVID-19 and can go to school/work while waiting for test results.

- **Response Procedures for Cases of COVID-19:** Updated step-by-step procedures. These steps do not apply to asymptomatic close contacts.
- **Close Contacts:** Student close contacts in class who are consistently and correctly wearing masks include only those students who were within 3 feet of an infected student for 15 minutes or longer over a 24 hour period.
- **When Close Contacts Are Identified at School:** All close contacts should get tested three to five days after exposure, regardless of vaccination status.
- **Close Contact Notification for School form to all close contacts:** Updated the hyperlink.
- **Stop the Spread of Germs Flyer:** Updated the hyperlink.

Deletions

- **Cleaning and Disinfection:** No additional cleaning if more than 3 days have passed notation removed from When to Clean and Disinfect a School When Someone is Sick.
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