

St. Joseph

COVID-19 Exposure Management Plan

August 2021

A targeted public health response to contain COVID-19 exposures at a community level can help maximize the impact of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH) COVID-19 response.

St. Joseph School serving students from Transitional Kindergarten through Grade 8 is a trusted community partner that can help DPH improve the timeliness and impact of the Public Health response through rapid initiation of a COVID-19 Exposure Management Plan (EMP). Immediate implementation of an EMP when a single case of COVID-19 is identified at school can accelerate the ability to contain the spread of infection and prevent outbreaks from occurring.

The steps for managing exposures to 1, 2, 3 or more COVID-19 cases at Our Lady of the Assumption School are described below and summarized in Appendix A.

Exposure Management Planning Prior to Identifying 1 COVID-19 Case at St. Joseph

REQUIRED: Mr. Ranney, Principal, is the designated School COVID-19 Compliance Officer. She is responsible for establishing and enforcing all COVID-19 safety protocols and ensuring that staff and students receive education about COVID-19. She serves as a liaison to DPH for sharing site-level information to facilitate public health action.

REQUIRED: All students and employees who (1) have symptoms consistent with COVID-19, (2) are quarantined because of exposures at school, or (3) are at school with an active public health investigation shall have access to testing or be tested for COVID-19.

RECOMMENDED: St. Joseph School is looking into implementing an asymptomatic screening testing program. Staff and students that are not fully vaccinated are prioritized for regular testing as an important part of identifying infections early to prevent transmission on campus. Fully vaccinated individuals are included in a school's asymptomatic screening testing program, on request and if an active case has been identified and exposure to the active case is suspected.

RECOMMENDED: St. Joseph School is looking into implementing a DPH-guided symptom screening program prior to school entry or while at school. St. Joseph will apply DPH guidance on Decision Pathways for persons who have not been tested yet for COVID-19 but screen positive for symptoms prior to school entry or while at school. Staff will submit an online report (Google Form) before arrival at school. Students will be screened at home by parents before arrival at school. A thermometer is available at drop off to conduct temperature checks.

Exposure Management for 1 COVID-19 Case at St. Joseph

REQUIRED: After identifying 1 confirmed COVID-19 case (student or employee), the School Compliance Office instructs the case to follow Home Isolation Instructions for COVID-19 (ph.lacounty.gov/covidisolation). NOTE: a confirmed COVID-19 case is an individual who has a positive COVID-19 test.

REQUIRED: School Compliance Officer provides a copy of the Public Health Emergency Isolation Order and informs the case that DPH will contact the case directly through the DPH Case and Contact Investigation Program to collect additional information and issue the Health Officer Order for Case Isolation.

REQUIRED: School Compliance Officer works to identify all individuals in the School who have had an exposure to the confirmed positive case during their infectious period (Close Contacts).

- A case is considered to be infectious from 2 days before their symptoms first appeared until the time they are no longer required to be isolated (i.e., no fever for at least 24 hours, without the use of medicine that reduce fevers AND other symptoms have improved AND at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared). A person with a positive COVID-19 test but no symptoms is considered infectious from 2 days before their test was taken until 10 days after their test.
- Close Contact: A person is considered to have been exposed to a case during the infectious period if at least one of the following criteria is met:
 - Being within 6 feet of the infected person for 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.
 - Having had unprotected contact with the infected person's body fluids and/or secretions of a person with confirmed COVID-19 (e.g., being coughed or sneezed on, sharing utensils or saliva, or providing care without using protective equipment).
- Exposures will be reviewed by Public Health to assess which persons need to quarantine including the possibility of quarantining all individuals in the same cohort or classroom as an infected person if exposures cannot be ruled out for the entire group.

REQUIRED: School Compliance Officer shall notify DPH of (1) employees and students with confirmed COVID-19 who were on campus at any point within the 14 days prior to the illness onset date and (2) persons on campus who were exposed to the infected person during the infectious period. The illness onset date is the first date of COVID-19 symptoms or the COVID-19 test date, whichever is earlier.

- All COVID-19 exposure case notifications to DPH shall be submitted within 1 business day of being notified of the case. Secure online reporting is the preferred method for notifying DPH of COVID-19 exposures and can be done on a computer or mobile device with access to the secure web application: <http://www.redcap.link/lacdph.educationsector.covidreport>

REQUIRED: All persons identified to have had an exposure to a COVID-19 positive case at school are notified by the School Compliance Officer of the exposure through a letter or other communication strategies. The notification of exposure shall include the following messages:

- Employees with a worksite exposure should follow guidance outlined in Cal/OSHA COVID19 Prevention <https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/coronavirus/ETS.html/>. A summary of requirements is provided in the Public Health guidance document on <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/ncorona2019/workplaceresponse/>
- Students and employees with an exposure to the case should test for COVID-19 and inform the school of test results. This will determine the extent of disease spread at the school and serve as a basis for further control measures. Testing resources include: Employee Health Services or Occupational Health Services, Student Health Center, Personal Healthcare

Providers, Community Testing Sites: <https://covid19.lacounty.gov/testing/> . Individuals who need assistance finding a medical provider can call the LA County Information line 2-1-1, which is available 24/7.

- Exposed students and employees who are not fully vaccinated** must self-quarantine (stay in their home or another residence, separate from others) and monitor for symptoms for 10 days from their last contact with the case while infectious (as defined above). If they remain asymptomatic, quarantine can end after Day 10 from the last date of exposure without testing but they must continue to monitor their health and adhere to COVID-19 prevention precautions through Day 14. Quarantine may end after Day 7 for exposed students who remain asymptomatic, if a diagnostic specimen is collected after Day 5 from the date of last exposure and tests negative, but they must continue to monitor their health and adhere to COVID-19 prevention precautions through Day 14.
**Details at <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/ncorona2019/vaccine/fullyvaccinated/>
- NOTE: Asymptomatic persons who are fully vaccinated AND who are a close contact to a confirmed case are recommended to test for COVID-19 as a result of their exposure but are not required to quarantine. However, they should monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days following an exposure. Persons who have recovered from laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 within the last 90 days AND who are a close contact to a confirmed case are not required to quarantine or test for COVID-19.
- DPH will contact exposed students and employees who meet the quarantine requirement through the DPH Case and Contact Investigation Program to collect additional information and issue the Health Officer Order for Quarantine.

RECOMMENDED: School Compliance Officer will determine whether additional notification is needed to inform the wider school community about the school exposure and precautions being taken to prevent spread of COVID-19.

Exposure Management for 2 COVID-19 Cases at St. Joseph within a 14-day Period

REQUIRED: After identifying 2 confirmed cases (students and/or employees) within a 14-day period, the school follows the steps for 1 confirmed case.

RECOMMENDED: School Compliance Officer determines whether the 2 cases are epidemiologically linked, meaning that the two affected individuals were both present at some point in the same setting during the same time period while either or both were infectious.

- Determination of epidemiological links between cases may require further investigation to assess exposure history and identify all possible locations and persons that may have been exposed to the case while infectious at the site.
NOTE: Epidemiologically linked cases include persons with identifiable connections to each other such as sharing a physical space (e.g. in a classroom, office site on campus, or gathering), indicating a higher likelihood of linked spread of disease in that setting rather than sporadic transmission from the broader community.

- If epidemiological links do not exist, the school continues with routine exposure management.
- If epidemiological links exist, the school reinforces messages to students and employees on precautions to take to prevent spread at the school, including implementations of site-specific interventions.

Exposure Management for 3 or more COVID-19 Cases at St. Joseph within a 14-day Period

REQUIRED: If the school identifies a cluster of 3 or more confirmed cases (students and/or employees) within a 14-day period, the school shall proceed with the following steps:

- Report the cluster immediately to DPH via the secure web application:
<http://www.redcap.link/lacdph.educationsector.covidreport>
- DPH will review the submitted information to determine whether the outbreak criteria described below have been met and will notify the school within 1 business day on next steps.
- **Outbreak Criteria:** At least 3 confirmed cases with symptomatic and asymptomatic COVID-19 within a 14-day period in a group with members who are epidemiologically linked, do not share a household, and are not a close contact of each other outside of the campus. School groups include persons that share a common membership at school (e.g., classroom, school event, school extracurricular activity, academic class, sport teams, clubs, transportation). Epidemiological links require the infected persons to have been present at some point in the same setting during the same period while infectious.
 - If outbreak criteria are not met, DPH will advise the school to continue with routine exposure management.
 - If outbreak criteria are met, DPH will notify the school that an outbreak investigation has been activated and a public health investigator will communicate directly with the school to coordinate the outbreak response.

(see below for Appendix A from LA-DPH)

Appendix A: Steps for Managing Exposures to COVID-19 Cases at School

1 Case	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) <i>Required:</i> School instructs the case to follow COVID-19 Home Isolation Instructions.2) <i>Required:</i> School informs the case that DPH will contact the case directly to collect additional information and issue Health Officer Order for Isolation.3) <i>Required:</i> School works with the case to identify school contacts.4) <i>Required:</i> School notifies* school contacts of exposure and instructs them to quarantine at home and test for COVID-19. NOTE: Asymptomatic persons who are fully vaccinated AND have an exposure are recommended to test but are not required to quarantine. Asymptomatic persons who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 within the last 90 days AND have an exposure are not required to quarantine or test for COVID-19.5) <i>Required:</i> School informs school contacts that DPH will contact them directly to collect additional information and issue Health Officer Order for Quarantine.6) <i>Required:</i> School submits a report to DPH within 1 business day with information on the confirmed case and persons who were exposed to the case at the site.7) <i>Recommended:</i> School sends general notification* to inform the school community of the school exposure and precautions taken to prevent spread. *Templates for contact notification and general notification are available at: COVID-19 Template Notification Letters for Education Settings.
2 Cases	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) <i>Required:</i> Follow required steps for 1 confirmed case.2) <i>Recommended:</i> If the 2 cases occurred within 14 days of each other, school works with DPH to determine whether the cases have epidemiological (epi) links. If epi links exist, school implements additional infection control measures.
3+ Cases	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) <i>Required:</i> If a cluster of 3 or more cases occurred within 14 days of each other, school immediately notifies DPH.2) <i>Required:</i> DPH determines if the outbreak criteria have been met. If outbreak criteria are met, a DPH outbreak investigation is activated, and a public health investigator will contact the school to coordinate the outbreak investigation.