



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY  
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Penny Borenstein, MD, MPH *Health Officer/Public Health Director*

Date: 8/5/2022

Dear San Luis Obispo County Superintendents and School Leaders,

This letter serves to update K-12 school partners about modified COVID-19 case reporting thresholds for the 2022-23 academic school year. To decrease the reporting burden on schools, the County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Department will no longer require individual case reporting and will instead require outbreak reporting.

**Required Actions:**

Report an outbreak among students and/or staff members to the County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Department if one of the following occur:

- 3 or more individuals within the same risk cohort\* test positive for COVID-19 over a two-week period, including students and/or staff members, OR
- 5% of the school population tests positive for COVID-19 (including faculty, support staff, students, and administrators on site).  
*\*"Risk cohort" includes persons with potential for shared exposure through a shared defined physical space. Examples include but are not limited to persons in the same: classroom, extracurricular activity, work-shift, physical workspace or living/sleeping space. (CDPH: [Outbreak Definitions and Reporting Guidance](#))*

**Reporting an Outbreak:**

- Email a completed K-12 Positive Case Reporting Spreadsheet (attached) to [publichealth.k12covid@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:publichealth.k12covid@co.slo.ca.us)

**Recommended Actions:**

- **Prepare to test your school community:** Due to the increased travel and social interactions that often occurs during school-breaks, it is recommended that students and staff are tested for COVID-19 prior to returning to school following major school closures and vacations (e.g., summer, fall holidays, spring break).
- **Stay home when sick:** Direct all individuals (both students and staff) to stay home when sick and get tested when they have symptoms suggestive of COVID-19.
- **Track cases in high-risk/close contact settings:** These include, but are not limited to, special education, sports, and music groups using wind instruments. Initiate and track response testing for those groups. Response testing entails one round of PCR testing on Day 5-7 or two rounds of antigen testing over 7 days.
- **Notify community members:** Notify entities outside of district schools in advance of events involving the general public and/or other schools if individuals in relevant risk cohorts have tested positive (e.g., sports, drama, music, robotics, mock trial, etc.).

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**Public Health Department**

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[www.slopublichealth.org](http://www.slopublichealth.org)

- **Follow the [CDPH group tracing approach](#):** Communicate to students and families when cases of COVID-19 arise. ([CDPH: Sample Notification Letter](#))
- **Share prevention information:** Please share information about COVID-19 prevention tools such as vaccines and masking. Create an environment that is supportive for students or staff who choose to continue masking indoors. Find resources and information at [slopublichealth.org](http://slopublichealth.org) and/or from your school nursing staff.
- **Prevent transmission:** Improve classroom ventilation and indoor air quality by optimizing or upgrading your school's mechanical ventilation (HVAC) system, opening doors and windows to increase natural ventilation, and adding portable air cleaners (PACs) to indoor settings like classrooms. ([CDPH: Improving Air Quality in Schools](#))
- **Review and reference the State's K-12 Guidance:** [COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools to Support Safe In-Person Learning, 2022-2023 School Year](#)

Lastly, as we did last year, we will continue to have standing meetings with school nursing staff to maintain open lines of support and communication for COVID-19 topics in K-12 schools.

Best wishes for a healthy school year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Rosen MD". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the initials "MD" written in a smaller, more distinct font at the end of the line.

Rick Rosen, MD, MPH  
Deputy Health Officer