


Updated CDC Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools

3-23-2022



Recent Updates to CDC Guidance

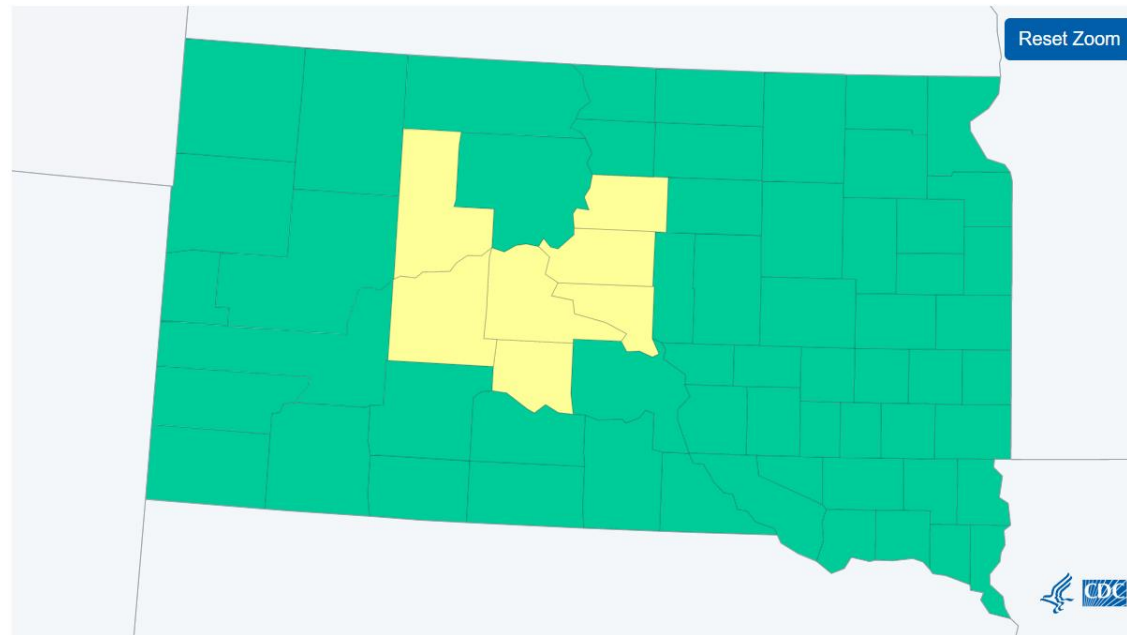
- Community Levels
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Community Levels

COVID-19 Community Levels are a new tool to help communities decide what prevention steps to take based on the latest data. Levels can be low, medium, or high and are determined by looking at hospital beds being used, hospital admissions, and the total number of new COVID-19 cases in an area.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>

Maps, charts, and data provided by CDC, updates every Thursday by 8 pm ET
Updated: March 17, 2022



Use of Masks

In counties with low or medium community levels, it is no longer recommended that individuals (including students and staff) wear a mask in indoor settings.

Low	Medium	High
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines• Get tested if you have symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If you are at high risk for severe illness, talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions• Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines• Get tested if you have symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wear a mask indoors in public• Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines• Get tested if you have symptoms• Additional precautions may be needed for people at high risk for severe illness



Case Investigation and Contact Tracing

- As of February 28, 2022, the CDC no longer recommends universal case investigation and contact tracing for COVID-19.
- SD DOH will no longer be collecting contact tracing workbooks effective April 1, 2022.
 - Schools may choose to continue utilizing the workbook as a tool, but will not submit the workbook to SD DOH.
- SD DOH has begun reducing the number of contact tracing staff, so schools may be assigned a new point of contact (POC) for the remainder of the school year.
- SD DOH will continue using electronic notification for positive cases via text and email. Positive cases will be asked to notify their own close contacts of potential exposure, per CDC guidance.

Isolation

Isolation Guidance for Individuals Positive for COVID-19:

- Asymptomatic positives should Isolate for 5 days. Positives with symptoms should isolate for at least 5 days, ensuring symptoms have improved and they have been fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medications before ending isolation.
- If they continue to have fever or other symptoms have not improved after 5 days of isolation, they should wait to end isolation until they are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and their symptoms have improved.
- If unable to wear a mask on days 6-10 when around others, they should continue to isolate for a full 10 days.

Quarantine

Quarantine for people who are considered close contacts

Close-contacts who are up to date with COVID-19 vaccines (have received any recommended boosters) or have had confirmed COVID-19 within the last 90 days DO NOT need to quarantine. All others should stay home and quarantine for at least 5 full days.

- Those without symptoms can end quarantine after 5 full days.
- Through day 10, all close contacts should watch for fever (100.4°F or greater), cough, shortness of breath, or other COVID-19 symptoms. Those who test positive or develop COVID-19 symptoms should follow recommendations for isolation.
- It is recommended for all close contacts to get tested 5 days or more after last date of close contact, regardless of vaccination status.
- On days 6-10, those returning after quarantine should wear a mask when around others.

Q & A