

K-12 Schools Telebriefing: Q&A Report

August 27th, 2024

This report includes questions submitted by telebriefing attendees that were answered during the [K-12 Schools Telebriefing](#) via the Q&A function. **Answers are only accurate as of August 27th, 2024.** If you have a specific question or need clarification, please email us at LiveWellEducation@sdcounty.ca.gov.

Topic	Question	Answer
Albuterol	Are there any updates on the new Albuterol standing order?	<p>There is no standing order at the state level at this point, but CDPH is working on it. It is possible for school districts to obtain Albuterol for students who have an existing prescription, but their supply is empty or lost.</p> <p>For students without a known diagnosis of asthma who do not have a prescription, but are showing signs of respiratory distress, epinephrine should be administered, as this may be the first sign of anaphylaxis. A standing order for epinephrine includes that it can be given when there are signs of anaphylaxis, which can include severe respiratory distress, wheezing, etc.</p> <p>Until it is provided by the state, there should not be a need for a standing order for Albuterol for students who do not have a history of asthma, since schools are authorized to use epi-pens.</p>
COVID-19 Guidance	Do schools need to report student and staff COVID-19 cases to the County's health department?	<p>In terms of individual case reporting, contact tracing should be conducted. But most importantly, potential outbreaks need to be reported to Public Health Services.</p> <p>Report Suspected Outbreaks in Schools to Public Health Services Email: PHS.EPI-SCHOOLS.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov Phone: (619) 692-8636</p>

<p>COVID-19 Guidance</p>	<p>Do teachers and staff need to wear masks when returning to campus after testing positive for COVID-19? If yes, for how many days? Are there any exemptions for this?</p>	<p>For students who are returning after a positive COVID-19 infection, the only recommendation is that they take additional precautions, including wearing a mask for 5 days, although this is not a requirement for them to be able to return to campus.</p> <p>For staff, because of Cal OSHA guidelines, regardless of whether they are returning after a COVID-19 infection or if they never left because they were asymptomatic, they would need to wear a mask for 10 days from the date of the positive test or symptom onset.</p>
<p>COVID-19 Guidance</p>	<p>What is the definition of an outbreak, according to the latest guidance?</p>	<p>An outbreak is when there have been 3 epi-linked positive COVID-19 cases within a 7-day period. It is critical, particularly in the workplace, to do contact tracing to ensure identification of close contacts and potential exposures. To end the status of an outbreak, 14 days have to pass with 1 or fewer new cases within that exposed group. You will be working with your public health team to ensure that it is officially designated.</p> <p>Report Suspected Outbreaks in Schools to Public Health Services Email: PHS.EPI-SCHOOLS.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov Phone: (619) 692-8636</p>
<p>COVID-19 Guidance</p>	<p>Do we need to send a notification to employees when an outbreak occurs?</p>	<p>Yes, if there was a person present at the workplace during their infectious period and they were symptomatic at the workplace, you are required to notify all of the potentially exposed employees. You do not have to explicitly inform them that the workplace is in an outbreak, but you do need to communicate with employees the different requirements that come with an outbreak. You will need to communicate as to why things are changing in their environment as a result of an outbreak. You will also need to work with your public health partners as they will have recommendations depending on the outbreak, what is occurring, and who is affected.</p> <p>Report Suspected Outbreaks in Schools to Public Health Services Email: PHS.EPI-SCHOOLS.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov Phone: (619) 692-8636</p>

<p>COVID-19 Guidance</p>	<p>Is contact tracing required? If so, what is the infectious period of a positive COVID-19 case? Does it start 24 or 28 hours before the first symptoms?</p>	<p>The definition of an infectious period changed last year. The infectious period is when an individual starts presenting with symptoms until the point where they have been fever-free for 24 hours and symptoms are resolving. It is important to note that COVID-19 can also be infectious up to 2 days before and up to 8-10 days after symptoms begin.</p> <p>With regards to contact tracing, if an individual presents with symptoms and tests positive in an indoor space, others who were in the space with the infected person would be considered close contacts. It is important to determine close contacts because if those contacts are employees and it happened at a workplace, you then have an obligation to notify and provide the employees access to testing. Contact tracing is also critical to determine if your workplace may be the setting of an outbreak. Regardless of the current public health policy, across COVID-19 virus evolutions, it is still possible that this virus can be infectious up to 2 days before symptoms appear (and up to 8-10 days after symptoms begin).</p>
<p>COVID-19 Guidance</p>	<p>Is there a form from the Public Health Department that needs to be used for positive cases for students?</p>	<p>No, however there is a process to report outbreaks. Visit the County's COVID-19 Outbreak Reporting page for instructions on how to report an outbreak to Public Health Services.</p> <p>For reporting suspected outbreaks in schools, specifically, via email or phone: Email: PHS.EPI-SCHOOLS.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov Phone: (619) 692-8636</p> <p>There is a spreadsheet the County sends out with guidance for anyone who reports an outbreak, and it provides the County with required data they need to fill out for outbreak management. If you have a specific spreadsheet you are using, look it over and make sure that it has what is needed. The County is happy to work with you!</p>

<p>COVID-19 Tests</p>	<p>Is the County or state still providing home COVID-19 tests for schools? If so, how do schools request them?</p>	<p>The California Schools Application for the Federal COVID-19 Testing Supply Program just became available. Check out the link for the ordering portal here.</p> <p>Check out more information about school testing for COVID-19 and learn about the Safe Schools for All program.</p> <p>The San Diego County Office of Education also still has quite a few COVID-19 test kits available. They expire at the end of October. Email ppe@sdcoe.net to pick some up.</p>
<p>COVID-19 Tests</p>	<p>Is there a plan to distribute COVID-19 tests to low-income schools this year?</p>	<p>There is no plan specifically to distribute to low-income schools, but these COVID-19 tests will be available to all schools.</p>
<p>Epi-Pens</p>	<p>Is there any guidance on how long expired epi-pens can be used for? If they cannot get any new ones in time, how long can we keep the expired ones for?</p>	<p>Never use an expired Epi-Pen if non-expired ones can be made available. Research has shown that auto-injectors continue to meet FDA requirements up to 30 months post-expiration date. However, this is only if it has been preserved under ideal conditions of storage temperature.</p>
<p>Epi-Pens</p>	<p>I am still waiting on an EpiPens4Schools order from June and am not able to access shipping confirmation information. Have other schools experienced similar issues with order fulfillment?</p>	<p>This is really common, especially for orders that come in over the summer to be received in the fall. Please continue to hang in there! It can take up to 6 months for schools to receive these orders.</p> <p>A lot of schools have found other financial resources through donations or parent-teacher associations to order in the meantime while they wait. We are hoping to change how this project operates in the future to prevent such delays.</p> <p>CDPH has a new standing order that states that California can get off the reordering list of EpiPens4Schools in August/September and back it up to January so that they are not so inundated with orders. This system will hopefully allow for a smoother system in future years.</p>
<p>Naloxone</p>	<p>How do we sign up for the naloxone training if we already have the naloxone?</p>	<p>You can sign up for SDCOE's virtual naloxone training here.</p>

<p>Naloxone</p>	<p>Is a standing order required for Narcan nasal spray due to the over-the-counter status? All other formulations and dosages of naloxone will remain available by prescription only and require a standing order to distribute and administer.</p>	<p>Yes, you can get Narcan over-the-counter for personal use. In a school setting, it is required that you have a standing order to administer the naloxone even though it is over-the-counter medication. All over-the-counter medications delivered in a school setting require standing orders. In the training we will provide, we have the link to obtain the standing order. It is a very simple process and takes only a few minutes. It is encouraged that all schools and LEAs have a standing order with their naloxone program.</p>
<p>Naloxone</p>	<p>Is the naloxone training offered through SDCOE available to private schools?</p>	<p>Yes, the SDCOE naloxone training is available to private school staff. Click here to register school staff for a naloxone training. As a note, private schools cannot receive naloxone itself through the funding that the County Office of Education received. That is only available to public and charter schools. There are other ways to access naloxone, including through the Naloxone Distribution Project. Reach out to Corinne McCarthy with SDCOE at corinne.mccarthy@sdcoe.net for assistance with obtaining naloxone.</p>
<p>Nursing Protocols</p>	<p>How does the school and parents handle when kids are biting at school?</p>	<p>It is normal for some kids in preschool to go through a biting age. When biting occurs, call the parents of the biter and bitten student. If there is a definite skin breakthrough, it would be important to ask the parents to check with their doctor about Hepatitis B protection (immunization, etc.). Once a biter is identified, teachers should devise a behavioral plan to divert the child from that biting behavior.</p>
<p>Nursing Protocols</p>	<p>How should school staff handle toileting accidents with young children? Is it appropriate to send children home for hygiene concerns, for example not just urine accidents?</p>	<p>Sending children home should not be an option with these populations. Schools that have preschool children and children with developmental or health issues that preclude full toilet training should have basic supplies available. These may include wipes, extra diapers and/or underpants, etc. Parents should be encouraged to send in a change of clothes too.</p>

Ringworm	Are there any recommendations regarding ringworm outbreaks in schools?	<p>The County's Health & Human Services Agency has educational materials for every health topic, including ringworm. Definitions on diseases and conditions are available as well as how they spread and how to prevent the spread. These materials are updated regularly. We highly recommend utilization of this tool.</p> <p>The Epidemiology & Immunization Services Branch (EISB) is hoping to expand education topics for anything not addressed as needs come up. For any disease material you are unable to find, please reach out to Mary Kacy-Svoboda with EISB at mary.kacy-svoboda@sdcounty.ca.gov.</p>
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