

OCS FAQs about Covid-19

Updated 1/9/22

Where do I email my Covid questions and submit Covid related documents?

covidinfo@oceancs.org

What is the difference between isolation and quarantine?

Isolation is what is required per health order when a person tests positive or is a confirmed case of Covid 19. It is the highest level of separation when someone has Covid to reduce the change of further spread.

Quarantine refers to what everyone who is a close contact of someone with Covid is required to do. It is also a critical part of slowing the spread of Covid 19.

If my child is quarantined and needs to test again, can my child test with our own antigen test instead of using an OCS test if eligible for antigen testing?

Yes, it is encouraged to bring your own antigen test to help OCS with limited supply of tests, but it should be taken in front of OCS staff.

What are the new booster eligibility guidelines?

Click [here](#) for the latest guidance.

If my student did not attend class last week, can they come back Monday?

Students that were not in school Jan. 3-Jan. 5 are cleared to come to school Monday as long as they pass FeverFree (please read and answer questions carefully and truthfully, the questions have been updated recently), and have a negative PCR test result in the last 7 days (or negative lab antigen test in the last 24 hours if recovered from covid in the last 90 days).

Can students who are close contacts of positive cases submit a negative PCR result instead of doing an antigen test?

Yes you can, but OCS' pcr test takes 24 - 48 hours for results so we use rapid antigen tests for contact tracing. IOCS follows the LACDPH procedure for testing close contacts who were exposed to a positive case:

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/ncorona2019/covidquarantine/>

Why does my child need to test right away if they are exposed to a positive case?

Your child could be positive for Covid so you test right away to know if they have Covid or not. Since an individual can transmit the covid virus up to 2 days before experiencing symptoms or testing positive, It is important to identify any additional individuals who need to isolate due to a positive test result from exposure. .

My child got a negative PCR test result, why does my child need to quarantine if exposed to a positive case?

Since an individual can transmit the covid virus up to 2 days before experiencing symptoms or testing positive, an individual may have contracted the virus at the time of or after taking their PCR test. When exposed, it may take 2 or more days before noticing symptoms or testing positive.

My child has recovered from COVID in the last 90 days, do they still need to test and quarantine?

Individuals who have recovered from covid in the last 90 days now need to provide weekly antigen testing for campus access, and are no longer exempt from quarantine orders if exposed to a positive case. However, they are still exempt from needing to quarantine after travel.

Please see the LACDPH website for more information:

<http://www.ph.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/>

My child tested positive, what now?

Individuals who test positive should isolate for at least 5 days. An antigen test should be taken on day 5 or later of the isolation period. The next steps will be determined by test results and symptoms, please read OCS' summary chart and/or the LACDPH information for more information:

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/ncorona2019/covidisolation/>

Please get in touch with the OCS front office to report the status of the positive case.

Can I submit outside antigen test results for close contact procedures?

Yes, you can take an antigen test at a lab within 24 hours of when it is due to the school, and email the results to covidinfo@oceancs.org. Please note the results must clearly state the child's name, the date the test was taken, the result, the lab that completed the test, and the type of test. Please note: OCS may conduct audits of test results submitted from outside sources to determine validity.

Can we still retest to see if the positive result was a false positive?

Due to the high exposure rate of the omicron variant, OCS will follow the LACDPH positive result guidance for all positive results from OCS testing. OCS will no longer end isolations/quarantines for positive cases found with OCS testing. However, we will continue to accept a retest done by an outside lab for presumptive positive results.

My child was a close contact to a positive case on campus the week of January 3rd, when do they do the next antigen test and come back to school?

For students whose last exposure to a positive case was at school on Wednesday January 5th:

Vaccinated students: Monday 1/10, 7:00am-8:00am, report to class if test is negative

Unvaccinated students: Tuesday 1/11, 7:00am-8:00am, report to class if test is negative

You may also submit a negative lab antigen test result taken in the last 24 hours. You may also bring an antigen test from home and complete it in the presence of OCS staff.

If you feel your student's exposure situation does not meet the criteria above, please contact the front office for confirmation.

I tested positive, when does my 5 day isolation begin?

Your isolation begins the day after the onset of symptoms, or the day you test positive if asymptomatic.

Example: Student feels sick Sunday night and stays home from school Monday. Student takes an antigen test on Tuesday and tests positive. The first full day of isolation is Monday (M, T, W, Th, F).

Example 2: Student got a positive result from Tuesday's on campus testing. It is now Thursday, and the student does not have symptoms. The first day of isolation is Tuesday (T, W, Th, F, S)

If my student was out sick, when can they come back to school?

Students that recently experienced symptoms of illness can come back to school when they are no longer symptomatic for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication, and test negative on an antigen test no more than 24 hours before returning to school. They can either take an antigen test on campus before reporting to class (we appreciate it if you bring your own antigen test!) or take an antigen test at a lab no more than 24 hours before returning to school.

Why do vaccinated close contacts get to end their quarantine when they have a negative antigen test?

Please contact LA County Public Health Department to find out more about the reasons behind the quarantine orders.

Can I email you a picture of home antigen results?

Home antigen tests must be completed in the presence of OCS staff. We appreciate you bringing a test from home!