

# Symptomatic / COVID-19 Positive / Exposure Decision Tree

Aligned with California State and San Mateo County Public Health Guidance

Updates are marked in RED font

**COVID-19 Symptomatic**  
*Stay Home (isolate) and Test*  
(if home antigen test is negative and symptoms persist, follow up with PCR lab test)

**Negative**  
May return to campus if no fever for 24 hrs and symptoms improved.

**Positive**  
Isolation minimum of 5 days from symptoms presentation

**COVID-19 Positive**  
Isolation  
Minimum of 5 days from positive test or when symptoms began (whichever came first)  
  
Negative COVID test NOT required to return

**Exposure to Confirmed COVID-19 Positive Individual**  
(Regardless of Vaccination Status)  
Was the exposure time indoors, closer than 6ft, and greater than 15 minutes cumulatively? \*\*

**No**  
No recommendations apply

**Yes**

- No quarantine required
- Symptom monitor for 14 days
- COVID-19 testing 5 days following last exposure
- Recommend mask wearing indoors for 10 days from exposure

If tests positive, isolation for a minimum of 5 days from positive results.

**Reporting Procedure**

**If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms:**

- Stay home (isolate) and test. Follow COVID-19 Symptomatic guidance

**If you have tested positive for COVID-19 (home antigen or PCR lab test):**  
(stay home and do not come to campus)

- Report at the following URL: <https://smccd.edu/return-to-campus/covid-positive-result.php>  
(note: students and employees have different form links)

**If you think you may have been exposed to someone who tested positive:**

- Follow self-assessment guidance for exposure →

**Release From COVID-19 Isolation**

Individuals can leave isolation **after 5 full days** if:

- Symptoms are improving
- No fever for 24 hours without fever reducing medication

**A follow up negative COVID test is NOT required for release**

**Mask wearing is recommended indoors through day 10 from when symptoms began or testing positive**

\*\*If symptoms continue to feel moderate to severe (shortness of breath or difficulty breathing), continue to isolate for up to 10 days. You should always consult your healthcare provider if these moderate to severe symptoms are present.

**COVID-19 Written Program Prevention Plan**  
<https://smccd.edu/return-to-campus/recovery.php#cases>

**\*\* Close Contact Exposure**

Being within six feet of a COVID-19 case for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or greater in any 24-hour period within or overlapping with the “high-risk exposure period” regardless of the use of face coverings.

**Notification**

Recommend notifying individuals who are close contact exposure\*\* within infectious window period includes 2 days prior to testing positive OR presenting with symptoms (whichever came first)