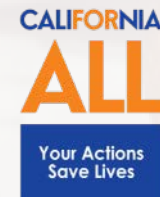


*The California Department of Education is providing this PowerPoint file to attendees of the Safe and Successful Schools Webinar on August 25, 2021. If you have difficulty accessing the document, please contact the Communications Division at [communications@cde.ca.gov](mailto:communications@cde.ca.gov). This file has not been prepared for public dissemination.*

# SAFE AND SUCCESSFUL SCHOOLS

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August 25, 2021



# Agenda

1. Summary of the Science
2. Status of the 2021-22 School Year
3. Hot Topics

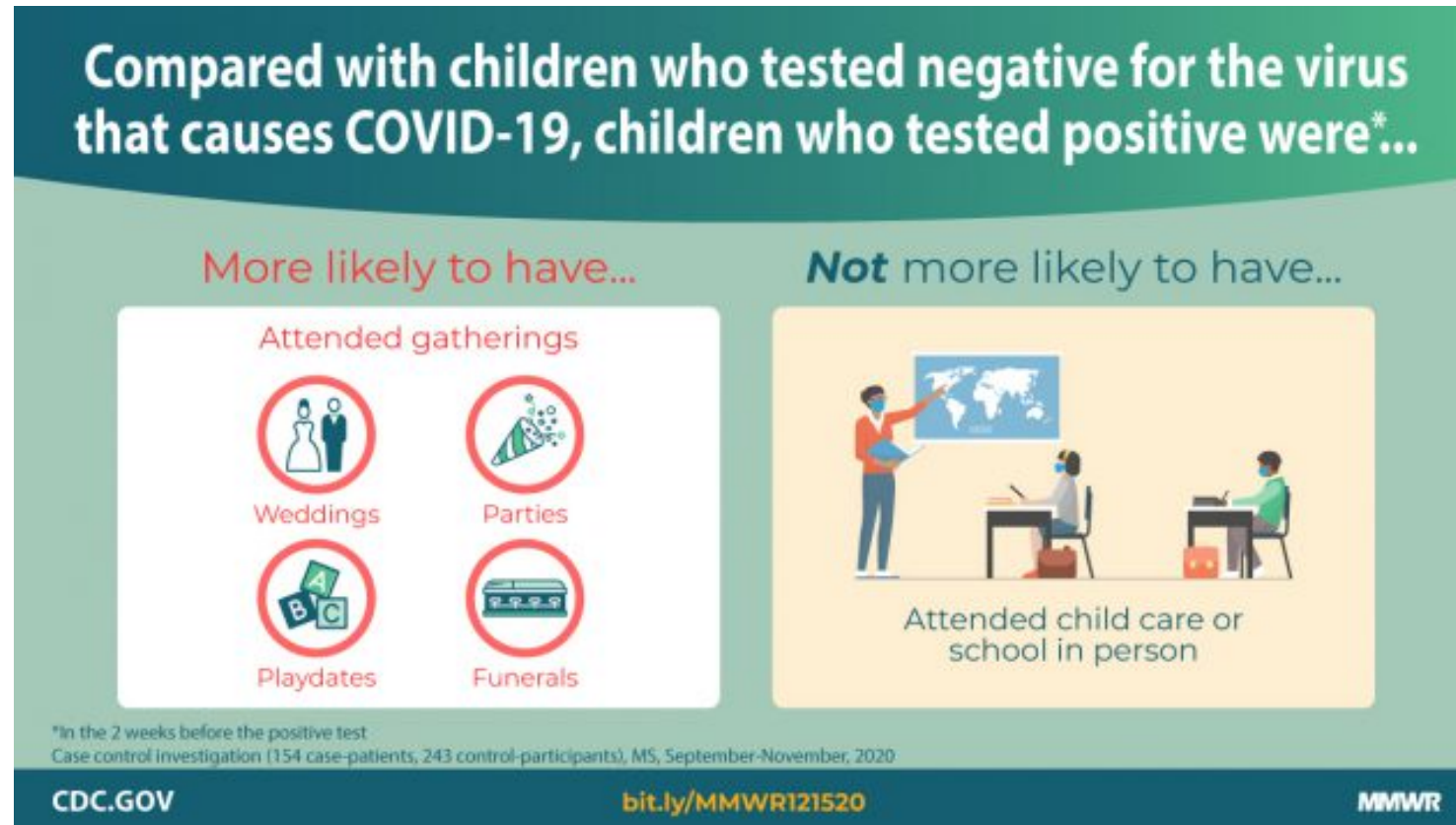
# 1. Summary of the Science



# Starting Point: Importance of In-Person Instruction

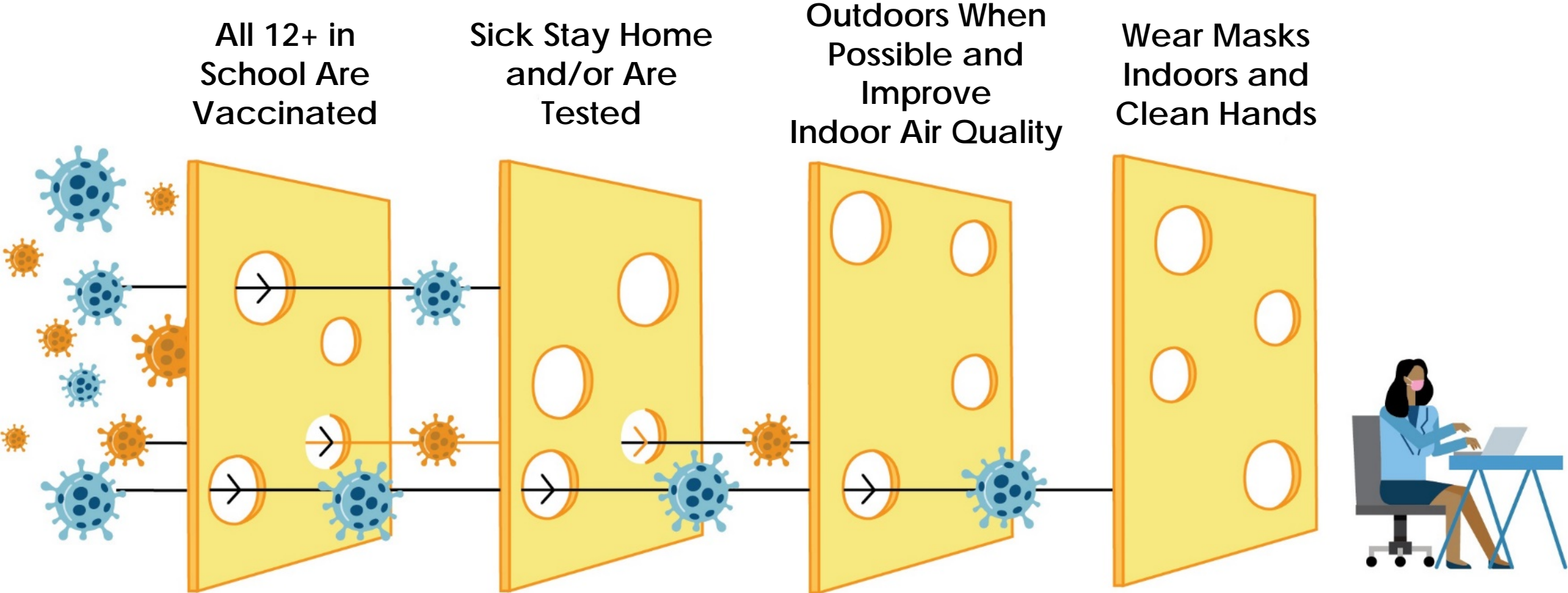
Research validates that we must keep schools open to promote the **mental, social-emotional, and academic** well-being of students.

# CDC: In-Person School Is A Lower-Risk Activity



Note: Based on a December 2020 study.

# Key Safety Layers: Making Schools the Safest Places in the Community



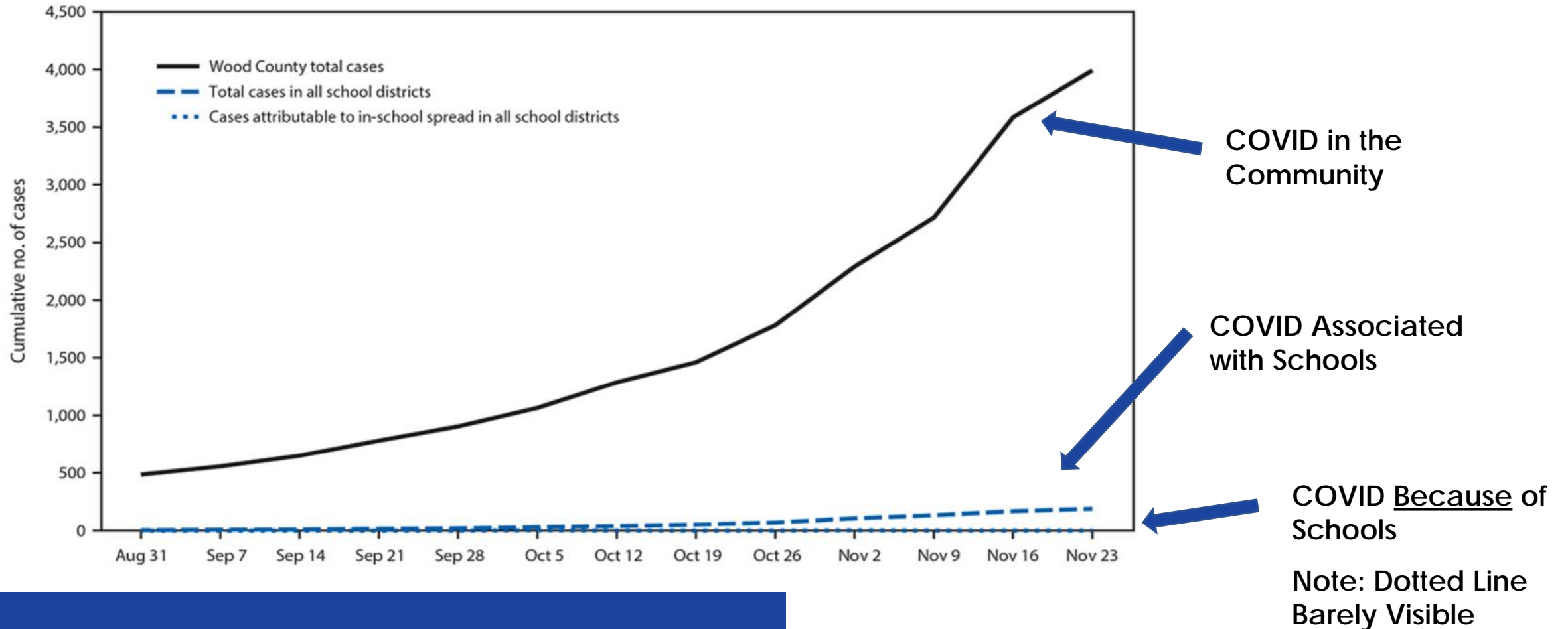
# How Have Things Changed with the Delta Variant?

Key Factors	What We Know
Transmissibility	<b>X</b> Delta is more than <b>2x</b> as contagious as previous variants. This is leading to the current surge in infections.
Virulence and Severity of Symptoms	<b>O</b> Still learning about this. Right now, children continue to develop severe symptoms less often than adults, as with previous variants. Delta's increased transmissibility means more cases of all types, including cases with severe symptoms. Unvaccinated people are more likely to have severe symptoms.
Vaccine Effectiveness	<b>✓</b> Vaccines are effective against Delta. Less than <b>1%</b> of vaccinated people experience a "breakthrough infection" ( <i>i.e.</i> , if you know 100+ people, you are likely to know someone) and less than <b>.005%</b> of COVID hospitalizations have been vaccinated people. Unvaccinated are <b>11x</b> more likely to get COVID. Those with breakthrough infections appear to be infectious for a shorter period of time.



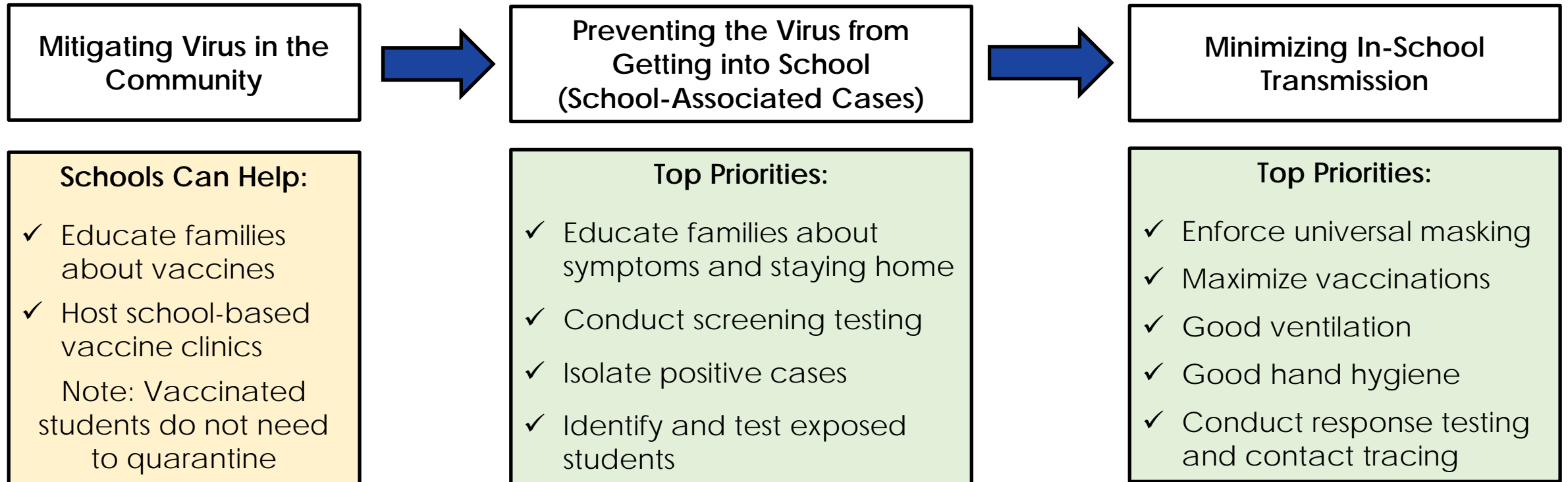
# Case Study: Wood County, WI

The following case study conducted in Fall 2020 demonstrates the low risk associated with schools and the importance of focusing on in-school transmissions.



# School-Associated vs. In-School Transmissions

**Key Objectives:** Minimize *in-school* transmissions and maximize in-person instruction.



# Helping Families Understand the News

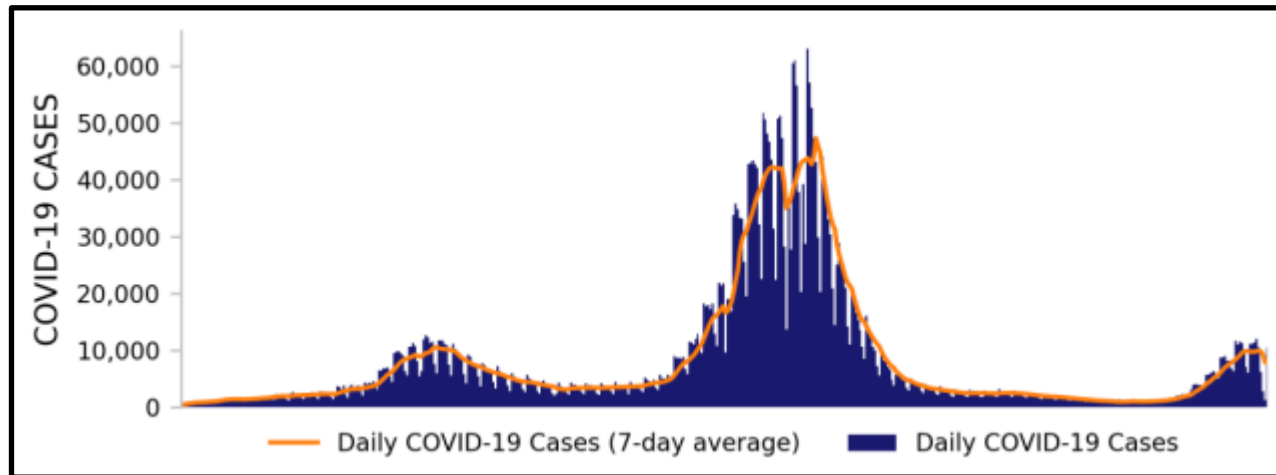
With the scientific context in mind, here is a primer for helping families read the headlines.

Headline	Context	Takeaways
<b>“LAUSD Reports 3,255 Student Back-to-School COVID Cases”</b>	Over 350,000 tests were conducted, representing an overall rate of 0.8%. Cases were identified before they entered the classroom.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• As a testing hub, schools may detect many cases in children, without in-school transmission.</li><li>• School-associated cases are often a sign that the school is screening out COVID.</li><li>• Check the denominator.</li></ul>
<b>“Is the Delta Variant More Dangerous for Children? A Growing Number of Kids Are Very Sick”</b>	Nationwide surge. COVID patients are generally younger because at-risk adults are vaccinated. Higher pediatric cases in places with low vaccination rates and mask requirements not allowed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Delta’s transmissibility means that there are more cases of all types (including cases with acute symptoms).</li><li>• Delta primarily impacts the unvaccinated, and children make up a greater proportion of the unvaccinated population.</li><li>• Vaccinations and masks are key and CA policies create safety.</li></ul>
<b>“Bay Area Schools Face Coronavirus Cases and Quarantines: ‘Parents Are Overwhelmed’”</b>	Schools are identifying cases, conducting contact tracing, and sending notifications.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Schools are creating safe spaces through layered approaches.</li><li>• The same cases are being encountered in stores, restaurants, and other public places.</li><li>• The difference is schools have safety measures in place, including testing and contact tracing.</li></ul>

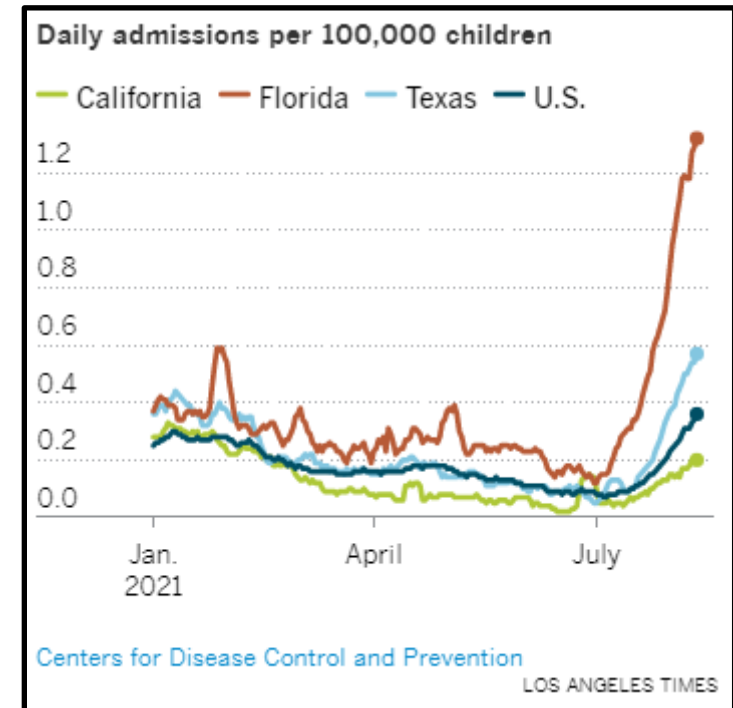
## **2. Status of the 2021-22 School Year**

# Current Outlook

Over **90%** of new cases in California are the Delta variant.



We are still very far from the Winter Surge and seeing signs that growth is slowing. Nevertheless, schools must plan and prepare for continued elevated rates.



We should learn from the experience of what is happening nationally.

# National and State Context

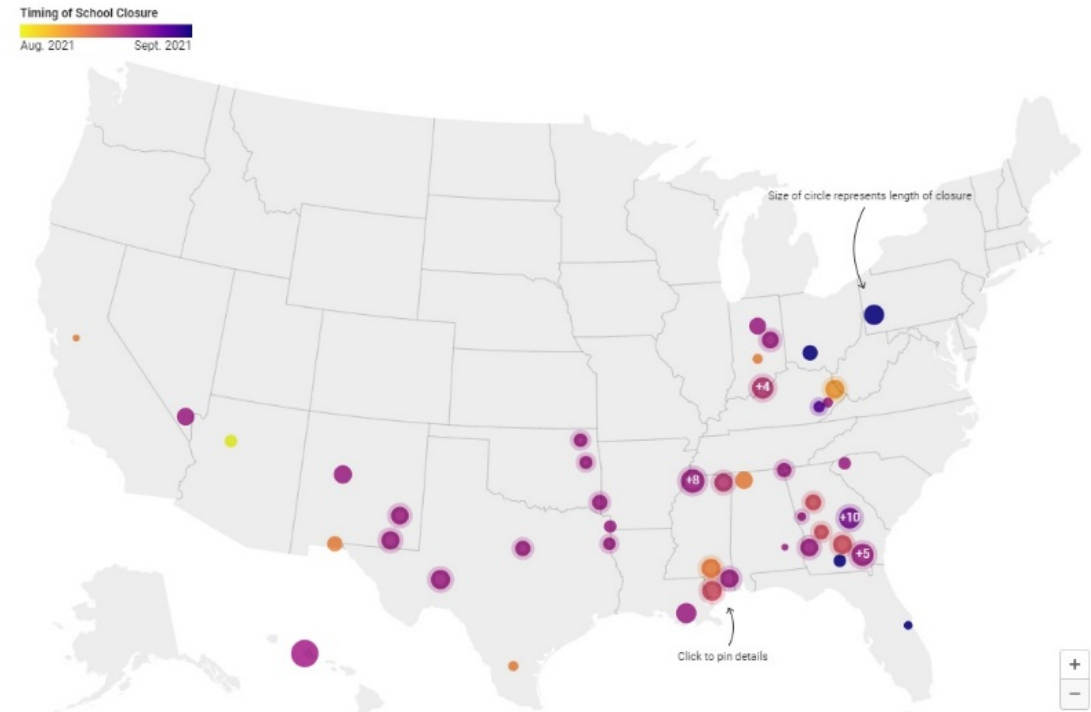
The school year has not started for many students, but here is a preliminary snapshot.

## No Delays in California Due to COVID-19.

Although some schools in other states have started the year in distance learning or delayed start dates, California schools appear to have started according to schedule. **17 of the 20** largest districts in the state have opened, and the other three are on schedule.

## California School Closures Have Been Minimal.

Nationally and in California, schools are struggling to manage the Delta variant. However, although schools in other states are closing for in-person instruction due to outbreaks, closures in California have been minimal to date (see right).



**Above:** Snapshot of school closures as of 8/23. Note: Schools in the Northwest, Midwest, and Northeast typically start in September.

# Wide-Angle Lens: What Patterns Are We Seeing?

**Pattern #1: School-associated cases caused by non-school social events.**

**Example:** A suburban high school experienced high levels of cases due to a back-to-school party held the week before school.

**Example:** Multiple rural high schools in the same community experienced high levels of cases due to attendance at a local fair.

**Pattern #2: Cases caused by symptomatic individuals who went to school while sick.**

**Example:** Two outbreaks associated with individuals (adults and children) coming to school with symptoms, leading to some in-school transmission.

**Pattern #3: Staffing shortages caused by low rates of vaccination among staff.**

**Example:** Multiple schools report staffing shortages due to vaccination rates estimated below 70% among staff.

**Pattern #4: Difficulty ramping up testing capacity at sufficient speed.**

**Example:** Multiple school districts with a desire to ramp up testing immediately, but unable to because of a sudden national surge in testing demand.

# COVID-19 Testing

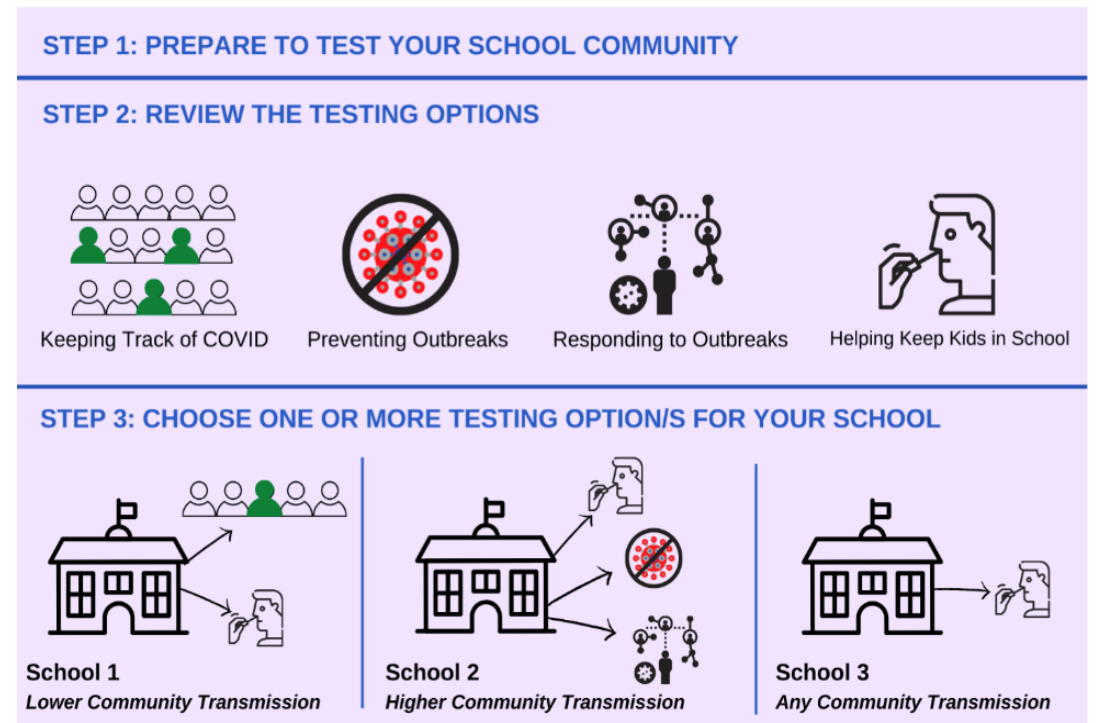
The state offers multiple no-cost testing options to all schools – traditional, charter, and private – and many have signed up.

## Overview:

- Options including PCR, antigen, and pooled-testing programs
- **684** school districts (of 1,037) onboarded
- **444** school districts (of 1,037) receiving personnel grants on an equity basis
- **Over 1,000,000** PCR test kits shipped
- **Over 2,000,000** antigen test kits shipped

CDPH K-12 School-Based COVID-19 Testing Strategies and Interest Form available at:

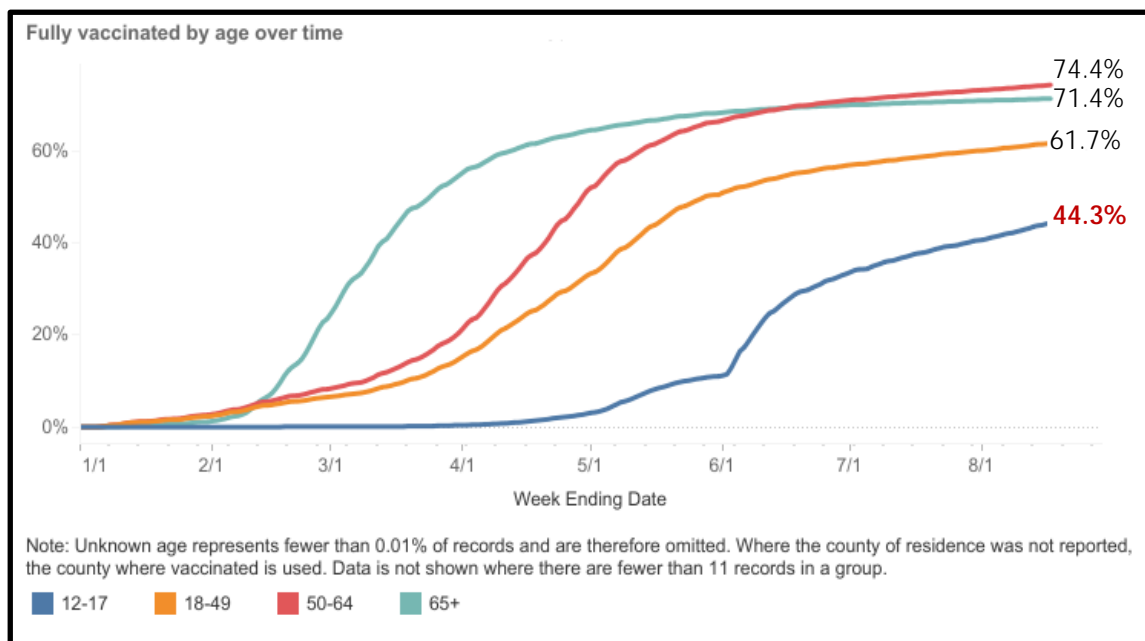
<https://testing.covid19.ca.gov/school-testing/>





# Vaccines

Vaccines substantially reduce the need for quarantines, especially in middle and high schools.



- Authorization for ages 5-11 expected by mid-winter.
- **86.3%** of counties report establishing school-located clinics for the 2021-22 school year.

**Outreach and Engagement.** Assets are available to help promote vaccines (see Google Drive link in references):

- Sample back-to-school **flyers**
- Model content for **newsletters** and school **marquees**
- **Social media** posts and recorded **testimonials**

**School-Located Clinics.** Resources are available to:

- Request **mobile** or **pop-up clinics**
- Request a **pharmacy** to come to your school
- Request **volunteers**
- Become a **vaccine provider** and receive a grant of up to **\$55,000**

# Vaccines (cont.)

If you want help setting up a school-located clinic, please visit:

<https://www.shotsforschool.org/k-12/clinics/>



The screenshot shows a website page with a purple navigation bar containing tabs for 'Child Care', 'K-12', '7<sup>TH</sup> Grade', 'College', and 'Laws'. The 'K-12' tab is selected. Below the navigation bar is a blue header with a photo of a young girl and the text 'School-located Vaccination'. A left sidebar contains a list of links: 'Shots Required for K-12', 'Transitional Kindergarten FAQs', 'Tools for Schools', 'Kindergarten School Reporting Data', 'School-located Vaccination' (highlighted), 'How Is Your School Doing?', 'All Required Vaccines Rate FAQs', and 'Audit'. The main content area features a breadcrumb trail 'ShotsForSchool > Shots Required for K-12 > School-located Vaccination', a title 'Resources for School-located Vaccination Against COVID-19 and Other Diseases', a paragraph about local health jurisdictions, a section on 'Benefits of SLV clinics include:' with a bulleted list, and a section on 'Resources for schools and local health jurisdictions:' with another bulleted list.

**Child Care**   **K-12**   **7<sup>TH</sup> Grade**   **College**   **Laws**

 School-located Vaccination

Shots Required for K-12  
Transitional Kindergarten FAQs  
Tools for Schools  
Kindergarten School Reporting Data  
**School-located Vaccination**  
How Is Your School Doing?  
All Required Vaccines Rate FAQs  
Audit

ShotsForSchool > Shots Required for K-12 > School-located Vaccination

## Resources for School-located Vaccination Against COVID-19 and Other Diseases

Local Health Jurisdictions, school districts and individual schools all play a significant role in the collective effort to keep students healthy and in school. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) continues to build resources to support school-located vaccine (SLV) clinics for COVID-19 vaccine, seasonal influenza vaccine and other routine immunizations.

**Benefits of SLV clinics include:**

- the ability to immunize large numbers of children in a short timeframe
- increasing access to underserved students and their families by making vaccination more convenient
- decreasing illness-specific school absences and lowering disease transmission and hospitalization rates in surrounding communities
- maximizing opportunities for students and families to stay up-to-date on recommended vaccines

**Resources for schools and local health jurisdictions:**

- Request a team of personnel (vaccinators, admin, data entry) to put on a vaccine event at your school.\* Schools should contact their [local health jurisdiction](#) and ask them to request staff via MHOACs.
- Request a mobile or pop-up clinic to come to a school to administer vaccines.\*
- Request a pharmacy to come to a school to administer vaccines.
- Request volunteers for your COVID-19 vaccination site.
- Schools may consider enrolling as a COVID-19 Vaccine Provider and receive incentives from the CalVaxGrant Program.
- Reach out to your local health department to discuss planning of a school-located vaccine clinic.
- School-Located Influenza Vaccination Toolkit (NACCHO)
- Tips for Successful Vaccine Partnerships (School Based Health Alliance)
- "Shoo the Flu" Campaign Toolkit

# State Supports + Rapid Response

In addition to no-cost testing, the state has multiple supports available for schools.



- **636** LEAs serving **4,754,519** pupils have been provided technical assistance for returning to in-person instruction.
- **407** LEAs have been provided technical assistance on outbreak mitigation.
- **73** LEAs have been provided onsite consultation.

**Strike teams with testing and vaccine resources** have been and are being deployed to schools with the most acute challenges. Please note: strike team capacity is limited.

**Pictured to the right:** an on-site testing clinic that was stood up the next school day after a surge in cases, which included 15-minute rapid testing and free take-home test kits.



# 3. Hot Topics



# Quarantines

**General Rule:** Throughout the pandemic, quarantine was recommended for anyone who had been within 6 feet of a positive case for 15 minutes or more.

**Modified Rule:** CDPH recommends a targeted approach in the context of masking, as does the CDC. Under 'Modified Quarantine', a student may remain in class after a possible exposure if:

1. Both students were wearing a mask;
2. The exposed student remains asymptomatic;
3. The exposed student undergoes twice weekly testing; and
4. The exposed student refrains from extracurricular activities.

**Rationale:** Apply what we have learned about COVID to maximize instructional time, recognizing that masking and testing create additional safety layers.

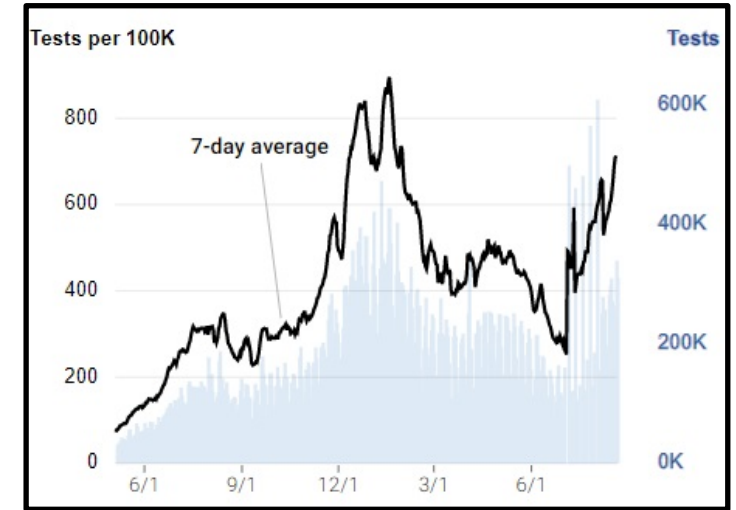
## Tips:

1. Expand testing capacity to meet the testing recommendation.
2. If you have not yet, establish seating charts to help track exposures.
3. Where possible, create stable groups to limit the number of students exposed.
4. Adhere to the recommendation as closely as possible, consistent with the rationale.

# Testing

**Act Now.** School communities across the nation were hoping for less need for COVID precautions this school year. Delta's arrival has created a need for more testing capacity in many schools.

- **Onboarding and Scaling Take Time.** It can take weeks to establish the testing capacity you need. Be prepared.
- **Heightened Demand.** With Delta, testing demand has spiked (see right), so you will be competing with others.
- **National Supply Chain Challenges.** Some major manufacturers ramped down their production capacity shortly before the surge.



**Let the State Help.** The state can help at **no cost** – the earlier, the better. Please visit <https://testing.covid19.ca.gov/get-started/>.

**Start a testing site in your community**  
Partner with the State of California to offer COVID-19 testing in your community

 <b>I'm an organization</b> (Such as employer – healthcare or non-healthcare, health center, congregate facilities, faith-based organization, community-based organization, etc.)	 <b>I'm a K-12 school</b> (Such as school district, private school, charter school, local education agency)	 <b>I'm a local health jurisdiction</b> (Local agency providing public health services)	OR	 <b>I'm an individual looking to access testing</b>
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# Staffing

One of the key challenges facing schools is when cases and quarantines cause staffing shortages that, in turn, disrupt the ability to stay open for in-person instruction.

## Key Measures to Consider:

1. **Ensure Staff Are Vaccinated or Tested Weekly.** Consistent with the August 11 public health order, encourage and ensure all staff are vaccinated or tested weekly.
2. **Employ the Guidance for Vaccinated People.** According to the May 12 public health order, fully vaccinated individuals do not need to quarantine if asymptomatic.
3. **Recruit Retired Staff and Others to Meet Short-Term Needs.** The Governor issued an executive order on August 16 that makes it easier for schools to bring back recently retired K-12 teachers and staff.



# Additional Resources for Strategic Prevention

## Additional “How to” Materials to Support:

- Mask requirements
- Safety during recess, meals, music, art, and PE
- Awareness of symptoms
- Limiting exposures
- Safety on buses and other transportation
- Vaccine education for families

[U.S. ED COVID-19 Strategies for Safely Reopening Schools](#)

[CCEE Health and Safety Guidebook](#)

[LPI Resources for Reopening Schools](#)

[American Academy of Pediatrics: Guidance for Safe Schools](#)





# If You Have Questions, Please Ask

If you need help or advice, please reach out at the Safe Schools Hub:

[schools.covid19.ca.gov](https://schools.covid19.ca.gov)



## State of California Safe Schools For All Hub

California's **Safe Schools for All Plan** provides the support and accountability to establish a clear path to minimize in-school transmissions and enable, first, a phased return to in-person instruction, and then ongoing safe in-person instruction.

The Safe Schools For All Hub consolidates key resources and information related to COVID-19 and schools. New resources will be added to the Hub on a routine basis.

### School Administrators & LHDs/Jurisdiction

Portal for School Leaders and LHD/LHJs to Request Technical Assistance from the State Safe Schools For All Team.

[Start Your Request](#) →

### Safe Schools Parent Page

Information for parents about COVID-19 and school safety.

[Parent Page \(English\)](#) →  
[Página para Padres \(Español\)](#) →

# THANK YOU

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