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**ORDER OF THE NEVADA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER REQUIRING THAT ALL SCHOOLS THAT INTEND TO IMPLEMENT SHORTENED OR MODIFIED QUARANTINE HAVE A FUNCTIONING TESTING AND CONTACT TRACING PROGRAM APPROVED BY THE HEALTH OFFICER**

**DATE OF ORDER: SEPTEMBER 7, 2021**

Please read this Order carefully. This Order is directed at school administrators. Violation of, or failure to comply with, this Order by a school administrator is a public nuisance subject to citation, abatement, or both, as well as a misdemeanor punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both (California Government Code §§ 8634, 8665; California Health and Safety Code §§ 120220, 120275, 120295; California Penal Code §§ 69, 148(a)(1)); Executive Order N-25-20).

**SUMMARY OF THIS ORDER** This Order requires the administration of any public, private, or charter school that intends to use shortened or modified quarantine for students exposed to COVID-19 to have in place a testing and contact tracing program that is working and has been approved by the Nevada County Health Officer. Furthermore, it clarifies that during modified quarantine students can participate in classroom activities but not in extracurricular activities, including sports, until quarantine is over and they remain asymptomatic. No extracurricular activities are allowed under any type of quarantine.

**BACKGROUND** It is in the best interest of students for them to have access to safe and full in-person instruction and to as much instructional time as possible. The California Department of Public Health has authorized schools to implement modified and shortened quarantine for **unvaccinated** students that have had an exposure to COVID-19. To implement either of these strategies, the school must have a robust and functional testing program and ability to perform contact tracing and reporting to the local health department.

**DEFINITIONS**

1. **MODIFIED QUARANTINE:** When both parties were wearing a mask in any school setting in which students are supervised by school staff (including indoor or outdoor school settings and school buses, including on buses operated by public and private school systems), unvaccinated students who are close contacts (more than 15 minutes over a 24-hour period within 0-6 feet) may undergo a modified quarantine as follows. They may continue to attend school for in-person instruction if they:
  - i. Are asymptomatic; and
  - ii. Continue to appropriately mask, as required; and
  - iii. Undergo at least twice weekly testing during quarantine; and
  - iv. Continue to quarantine for all extracurricular activities at school, including sports, and activities within the community setting. This means no participation in any of these activities during the quarantine period.
2. **SHORTENED QUARANTINE:** Contacts, (more than 15 minutes over a 24-hour period within 0-6 feet) if they remain asymptomatic (meaning they have NOT had any symptoms), may discontinue self-quarantine at home under the following conditions:

- i. Quarantine can end after Day 7 if a diagnostic specimen is collected after Day 5 from the date of last exposure and tests negative.
3. FULL QUARANTINE: To discontinue quarantine before 14 days following last known exposure, asymptomatic close contacts must:
  - i. Continue daily self-monitoring for symptoms through Day 14 from last known exposure; and
  - ii. Follow all recommended non-pharmaceutical interventions (e.g., wearing a mask when around others, hand washing, avoiding crowds) through Day 14 from last known exposure.

If any symptoms develop during this 14-day period, the exposed person must immediately isolate, get tested and contact their healthcare provider with any questions regarding their care.

Reference: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/K-12-Guidance-2021-22-School-Year.aspx>

ORDER UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTIONS 101040, 101085, 120175, AND 120220, THE PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER OF NEVADA COUNTY ("HEALTH OFFICER") HEREBY ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:

1. All public, private or charter schools in Nevada County that intend to implement modified or shortened quarantine for unvaccinated students who are close contacts of a case of COVID-19 must first implement a testing and contact tracing program that is approved by the Nevada County Health Officer.
2. The following are some, not necessarily all, of the steps that must be taken to effectively implement modified or shortened quarantine:
  - a. Identify all students, staff and volunteers who are currently in isolation because of a diagnosis of COVID-19 with date when isolation will end.
  - b. Identify all students, staff and volunteers who are currently in quarantine and the date when it will end.
  - c. Develop a testing program for all students, staff and volunteers who require testing in order to return to full activities at the school.
  - d. Conduct case investigations and contact tracing as indicated.
  - e. Review the testing and contact tracing program with the Nevada County Health Officer or their designee in order to obtain approval.
  - f. Communicate all actions being taken with the school community with a clear explanation of how testing requirements, isolation and quarantine will be conducted.
3. This Order shall become effective immediately.
4. All State orders and guidance documents referenced in State orders are complementary to this Order. By way of this Order, the Public Health Officer adopts such directives as orders as well. Where a conflict exists between a local order and any State public health order related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the most restrictive provision controls pursuant to, and consistent with, California Health and Safety Code § 131080, unless the State Health Officer issues an order that expressly determines a provision of a local public health order is a menace to public health.
5. The violation of any provision of this Order by a school administrator constitutes an imminent threat and menace to public health, constitutes a public nuisance, and pursuant to California Health and Safety Code § 120275, is a misdemeanor punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both. Other administrative and judicial remedies are also available.
6. Copies of this Order shall promptly be: (1) made available at the County Administration Building at 950 Maidu Avenue, Nevada City; (2) posted on the County website

(www.mynevadacounty.com); and (3) provided to any member of the public requesting a copy of this Order.

7. If any provision of this Order or its application to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid, the remainder of the Order, including the application of such part or provision to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected and shall continue in full force and effect. To this end, the provisions of this Order are severable.

IT IS SO ORDERED:



Scott Kellermann, MD, MPH&TM

Dated: September 7th, 2021