

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Ron DeSantis
Governor

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State Surgeon General

Vision: To be the **Healthiest State** in the Nation

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 2, 2021

TO: CHD Health Officers, Primary CHD Epidemiologists

THROUGH: County Health Systems

FROM: Carina Blackmore, DVM, PhD, Dipl ACVPM
Director
Division Disease Control and Health Protection

SUBJECT: Quarantine Guidance, Post COVID-19 Vaccination Guidance

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released updated quarantine guidance for vaccinated persons.

Vaccinated persons with an exposure to a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 are not required to quarantine if they meet all of the following criteria:

- Are fully vaccinated (i.e., ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine)
- Are within 3 months following receipt of the last dose in the series
- Have remained asymptomatic since the current COVID-19 exposure

Persons who do not meet all of the above criteria should continue to follow current quarantine guidance, as described below, after exposure to a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19. **This guidance does not apply to vaccinated inpatients and residents in health care or other long-term care facility settings, who should continue to quarantine following an exposure to COVID-19.** Quarantine for health care workers with higher-risk COVID-19 exposure ([Interim U.S. Guidance for Risk Assessment and Work Restrictions for Healthcare Personnel with Potential Exposure to COVID-19 | CDC](#)) should be assessed on a case by case basis and exemptions could be applied as a strategy to alleviate staffing shortages.

Vaccinated persons should continue to follow recommendations to protect themselves and others, to include following general principles for mask use (e.g., cover the nose and mouth, tight fit against the sides of the face without gaps, and handled only by the ear loops, cords, or straps), staying at least 6 feet apart from others, avoiding crowds, ventilating indoor spaces, washing hands frequently, following CDC travel guidance (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>) and following any applicable workplace or school guidance, including guidance related to personal protective equipment use or SARS-CoV-2 testing.

Quarantine Guidance

In early December CDC published alternatives for asymptomatic close contacts to end quarantine earlier than the previously recommended 14 days. ([Options to Reduce Quarantine for Contacts of Persons with SARS-CoV-2 Infection Using Symptom Monitoring and Diagnostic Testing](#)). As a reminder, close contacts are those individuals who have been within 6 feet of an infected individual for a cumulative of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period, regardless of mask usage.

1. If an asymptomatic close contact gets tested by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test on Day 6 or later and receives a negative result, then they may end quarantine after Day 7.
2. Without testing, an asymptomatic close contact may end quarantine after Day 10.

In both scenarios, individuals are to be counseled to adhere strictly to public health mitigation through Day 14, including correct and consistent use of a face mask, social distancing, hand hygiene, avoiding close contact and crowds and self-monitoring for symptoms.

Close contacts who develop symptoms within the 14 days should seek medical care and testing. Close contacts who test positive for COVID-19 are considered a case and should isolate for at least 10 days from symptom onset. COVID-19 positive cases should stay separated from household members to the greatest extent possible, including using a separate bedroom and bathroom, if possible.

In scenarios when quarantine is required, please note that close contacts connected to health care or other long-term care facility settings with medically vulnerable populations (e.g., long-term care facilities, assisted living facilities, nursing homes, acute care hospitals) and other settings may not end quarantine prior to the 14-day time period. Otherwise, as appropriate, asymptomatic close contacts should be counseled about both alternatives to end quarantine earlier than the previously recommended 14 days.

The Florida Department of Health is implementing these guidelines effective immediately.

References:

Public Health Recommendations for Vaccinated Persons:

www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/clinical-considerations.html#phrecs

Options to Reduce Quarantine for Contacts of Persons with SARS-CoV-2 Infection Using Symptom Monitoring and Diagnostic Testing:

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/more/scientific-brief-options-to-reduce-quarantine.html

COVID-19:

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html