## Keeping Our Communities Safe

### Isolation Information

#### Symptom Based Strategy

**Even if Fully Vaccinated, If You Had COVID-19 Symptoms and Are Able to Recover at Home**

You can leave your sick room* and home after three things have happened:

- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared, and
- 24 hours have passed without fever, without fever-reducing medication, and
- Your other symptoms have improved. Loss of taste or smell might persist for weeks or months and should not delay ending isolation.

* A sick room involves living in a separate room and using a separate bathroom if possible. Don’t share personal items. Clean and disinfect your home and frequently touched surfaces often. If you are unable to live alone, wear a mask when around others and have them wear masks too. [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/care-for-someone.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/care-for-someone.html)

#### Time Based Strategy

**If You Tested Positive For COVID-19, Never Had Symptoms, and Are Able to Recover at Home**

You can leave your sick room and home after two things have happened:

- At least 10 days have passed since the date of your first positive diagnostic test, and you continue to have no symptoms since the test.
- If you develop symptoms after beginning isolation for a positive test result, restart your isolation time using the day that symptoms began as your new start date.

Be cautious when retesting for COVID-19. Your test results can remain positive for a couple of months, even though you are no longer able to spread the virus.

#### Immune Suppressed

**If You Had Severe Illness From COVID-19 or Have a Weakened Immune System and Are Recovering at Home**

You may need to stay home for longer than 10 days after symptoms appear. More than 20 days of isolation may be needed and you may require testing to determine when it is safe to be around others. Please consult with your primary care physician or infectious disease expert before ending isolation.

#### Healthcare Personnel

**If You Work in Healthcare and Have COVID-19**

Special guidance is applied to all Healthcare personal (HCP) in the context of local circumstances, while at work. HCP full vaccination status, the potential for contact with people at high-risk for severe COVID-19, and employer staffing needs are considered when ending isolation from work duties.

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[health.pa.gov](http://health.pa.gov)  [cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov)  3/24/2021
**KEEPPING OUR COMMUNITIES SAFE**

**WHEN TO END QUARANTINE**

**IF YOU LIVE WITH SOMEONE WITH COVID-19**

1. **STEP ONE**
   - **QUARANTINE** with COVID+ HOUSEHOLD MEMBER DURING THEIR ISOLATION

2. **STEP TWO**
   - **SECOND QUARANTINE** BEGINS AFTER COVID+ HOUSEHOLD MEMBER IS RELEASED FROM ISOLATION

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<th>DATES FOR RELEASE FROM QUARANTINE IF NOT SICK</th>
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<tr>
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If you are able to live completely separate from the person in your house with COVID-19 follow the non-household contact timeframe. Living separate from your housemate means no contact, no time together in the same room, and no sharing of any spaces such as a bathroom or bedroom.

**IF YOUR COVID-19 CONTACT DOES NOT LIVE WITH YOU**

1. **ONE STEP**
   - **QUARANTINE FROM DATE OF LAST CLOSE CONTACT**

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**HEALTHCARE PERSONNEL**

EXPOSED HEALTHCARE PERSONNEL (HCP)

Work restrictions for HCP take into account their full vaccination status, potential contact with patients at high-risk for severe COVID-19, and employer staffing needs.
CAN I TAKE A TEST TO END QUARANTINE?
Yes, testing to end quarantine early for someone with no symptoms may take place on the fifth day after their last known exposure to COVID-19. A map of testing locations in Pennsylvania is available here.

WHO ARE CLOSE CONTACTS?
A close contact is anyone providing care for a person with COVID-19, or living with a person who has COVID-19, or anyone who has been within six feet of a person who has COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period. A person with COVID-19 is considered to be contagious starting from two days before they became sick (or two days before test specimen collection if they never had symptoms) until they meet the criteria to discontinue isolation.

DOES BEING FULLY VACCINATED CHANGE QUARANTINE GUIDELINES?
Yes, A close contact who is fully vaccinated and has no symptoms does not need to quarantine.

IF MY TEST IS NEGATIVE AM I CLEAR?
No, If you were a close contact with someone with COVID-19, have symptoms, and tested negative continue to quarantine. If symptoms persist, consider waiting a couple of days and get tested a second time.

WHERE CAN I GO WHEN QUARANTINED?
As much as possible, stay in a specific room and away from other people and pets in your home. Do not visit public areas. Only leave your home to get medical care.

ANSWER YOUR PHONE
If you test positive for COVID-19, a public health staff member will try to call you within 24 to 48 hours of receiving the test result. They will conduct an investigation or share a Connect & Protect Form to collect information on the people and places you came in contact with while you were infectious. Also, an exposed contact will hear from a contact tracer who will help to identify needs and be a resource for other health or social service supports.

FRAUD ALERT
The Health Department will never ask you for financial info; including social security, bank account, or credit card numbers.

HELP IS AVAILABLE | ISOLATING OR QUARANTINING CAN BE CHALLENGING
If you or someone you know is experiencing a crisis, help is available at 1-877-PA-HEALTH. (1-877-724-3258)
Or, to contact the Crisis Text Line, Text ‘PA’ to 741-741 for free, 24/7 crisis counseling. We’re here for you.