

MEMORANDUM

TO: DuPage County Healthcare, School, and Community Partners
FROM: Karen Ayala, MPH, Executive Director
Rashmi Chugh, MD, MPH, Medical Officer
DATE: March 12, 2021
SUBJECT: **Updated Quarantine Recommendations for Persons Fully Vaccinated against COVID-19**

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued “[Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People](#)” on March 8, 2021; these recommendations apply to **non-healthcare settings**. For the purposes of this CDC guidance, people are considered fully vaccinated for COVID-19 ≥ 2 weeks after they have received the second dose in a 2-dose series (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna), or ≥ 2 weeks after they have received a single-dose vaccine (Johnson and Johnson (J&J)/Janssen).[†]

Fully vaccinated people with COVID-19 symptoms

Although the risk that fully vaccinated people could become infected with COVID-19 is low, any fully vaccinated person who experiences [symptoms consistent with COVID-19](#) should [isolate themselves from others](#), be clinically evaluated for COVID-19, and tested for SARS-CoV-2 if indicated. The symptomatic fully vaccinated person should inform their healthcare provider of their vaccination status at the time of presentation to care.

Fully vaccinated people with no COVID-like symptoms following an exposure

Fully vaccinated people with no COVID-like symptoms do not need to [quarantine](#) or be tested following an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19, as their risk of infection is low.

Fully vaccinated people who do not quarantine should still monitor for [symptoms of COVID-19](#) for 14 days following an exposure. If they experience symptoms, they should isolate themselves from others, be clinically evaluated for COVID-19, including SARS-CoV-2 testing, if indicated, and inform their health care provider of their vaccination status at the time of presentation to care.

Please note: Determining eligibility for fully vaccinated close contacts with no COVID-like symptoms adds another layer to the contact tracing investigation, which can take some time to verify. DuPage County residents will still be required to complete a contact interview to provide the necessary information to complete the verification process and, in some instances, residents may need to quarantine while this is occurring. **COVID-19 vaccination status is verified by case/contact investigators preferably through the immunization information system in Illinois (i.e., I-CARE), since all COVID-19 vaccine providers are required to enter COVID-19 vaccination data within 72 hours of dose administration.**

Documentation of COVID-19 vaccination provided by the COVID-19 vaccination site is an acceptable alternative to I-CARE for verification. DuPage County residents who receive notification to quarantine and meet the vaccination requirements may call 312-777-1999 to request a letter documenting release from quarantine.



Fully vaccinated residents of non-healthcare congregate settings

Fully vaccinated residents of non-healthcare congregate settings (e.g., correctional and detention facilities, group homes) should **continue to quarantine for 14 days** and be tested for SARS-CoV-2 following an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19. This is because residential congregate settings may face high turnover of residents, a higher risk of transmission, and challenges in maintaining recommended physical distancing.

Fully vaccinated employees of non-healthcare congregate settings and other high-density workplaces

Fully vaccinated employees of non-healthcare congregate settings and other high-density workplaces (e.g., meat and poultry processing and manufacturing plants) with no COVID-like symptoms do not need to quarantine following an exposure; however testing following an exposure and through routine workplace screening programs (if present) is still recommended.

For now, fully vaccinated people should continue to:

- Take precautions in public like wearing a **well-fitted mask and physical distancing**
- Wear masks, practice physical distancing, and adhere to other prevention measures when visiting with unvaccinated people who are at [increased risk for severe COVID-19](#) disease or who have an unvaccinated household member who is at increased risk for severe COVID-19 disease
- Wear masks, maintain physical distance, and practice other prevention measures when visiting with unvaccinated people from multiple households
- Avoid medium- and large-sized in-person gatherings
- Get tested if experiencing [COVID-19 symptoms](#)
- Follow guidance issued by individual employers
- Follow CDC and health department travel requirements and recommendations

Regarding healthcare settings, CDC issued "[Updated Healthcare Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations in Response to COVID-19 Vaccination](#)" on March 10, 2021. This guidance includes a section on **work restriction for asymptomatic healthcare personnel (HCP) and quarantine for asymptomatic patients and residents:**

- Fully vaccinated HCP with [higher-risk exposures](#) who are asymptomatic do not need to be restricted from work for 14 days following their exposure. Work restrictions for the following fully vaccinated HCP populations with higher-risk exposures should still be considered for:
 - HCP who have underlying immunocompromising conditions (e.g., organ transplantation, cancer treatment), which might impact level of protection provided by the COVID-19 vaccine. However, data on which immunocompromising conditions might affect response to the COVID-19 vaccine and the magnitude of risk are not available.
- HCP who have traveled should continue to follow CDC [travel recommendations and requirements](#), including restriction from work, when recommended for any traveler.
- Fully vaccinated inpatients and residents in healthcare settings should continue to [quarantine following prolonged close contact](#) (within 6 feet for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period) with someone with SARS-CoV-2 infection; outpatients should be cared for using recommended [Transmission-Based Precautions](#). This is due to limited information about vaccine effectiveness in this population, the higher risk of severe disease and death, and challenges with physical distancing in healthcare settings.

Additional information and resources on COVID-19 are available at: www.dupagehealth.org/covid19.

†This guidance applies to COVID-19 vaccines currently authorized for emergency use by the Food and Drug Administration: Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, and Johnson and Johnson (J&J)/Janssen COVID-19 vaccines. Considerations for applying this guidance to vaccines that are not FDA-authorized include whether the vaccine product has received emergency approval from the World Health Organization or authorization from a national regulatory agency.