



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH SERVICES

'Release from Isolation and Quarantine' Guidance

Recommendations for [quarantine](#) and discontinuation of [isolation](#) precautions and home isolation, based upon a person's symptoms and clinical testing are below. In addition, the release from isolation flowchart can be found [here](#). CDC and ADHS **do not** recommend a test-based strategy to discontinue isolation or quarantine. For people that previously tested positive for COVID-19 who remain asymptomatic after recovery, retesting is not recommended within 3 months after the date of symptom onset for the initial COVID-19 infection. The most recent updates to this document can be found [here](#).

- If a person is [symptomatic](#) and **awaiting**** COVID-19 test results:
 - Stay home away from others or under isolation precautions until results are available. If results are delayed, follow guidance for symptomatic and tested positive for COVID-19. Once results are available, follow the recommendations below based on results.
- If a person is [symptomatic](#) and **tested positive** for COVID-19 by PCR or antigen testing, stay home away from others or under isolation precautions until:
 - At least 10 days* have passed since symptoms first appeared; AND
 - At least 24 hours have passed since last fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers; AND
 - Other symptoms have improved.
- If a person is [symptomatic](#) and **tested negative**** for COVID-19 by PCR or antigen testing, stay home away from others or under isolation precautions until:
 - At least 24 hours have passed since last fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers; AND
 - Other symptoms have improved.
- If a person is [symptomatic](#) and has **not been tested**** for COVID-19 by PCR or antigen testing, stay home away from others or under isolation precautions until:
 - At least 10 days* have passed since symptoms first appeared; AND
 - At least 24 hours have passed since last fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers; AND
 - Other symptoms have improved.
- If a person is **asymptomatic** and **awaiting**** COVID-19 test results:
 - No isolation is required while waiting for test results. Take everyday precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Once results are available, follow recommendations based on results.

- If a person is **asymptomatic** and **tested positive** for COVID-19 by PCR or antigen testing, stay home away from others or under isolation precautions until:
 - At least 10 days* have passed since specimen collection of the first positive COVID-19 PCR/antigen testing while asymptomatic. If symptoms develop, follow guidance for symptomatic and tested positive for COVID-19.
- If a person is **asymptomatic** and **tested positive**** for COVID-19 by serology:
 - No isolation is required since there is a low likelihood of active infection. Take everyday precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- If a person is **asymptomatic** and **tested negative**** for COVID-19 by PCR, antigen testing, or serology:
 - No isolation is required. Take everyday precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- If a person has other non-compatible symptoms and has not been tested for COVID-19, stay home away from others or under isolation precautions until:
 - At least 24 hours have passed since last fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers; AND
 - Other symptoms have improved.

*A person who had [severe/critical illness](#) or is [severely immunocompromised](#) should:

- If symptomatic, stay home away from others or under isolation precautions until:
 - At least 20 days have passed since symptoms first appeared; AND
 - At least 24 hours have passed since last fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers; AND
 - Other symptoms have improved.
- If asymptomatic, stay home away from others or under isolation precautions until:
 - At least 20 days have passed since specimen collection of the first positive COVID-19 PCR/antigen testing while asymptomatic. If symptoms develop, follow guidance for symptomatic and tested positive for COVID-19.

Outside of these criteria above, extension of isolation is not routinely recommended if an individual is retested within 3 months of onset of symptoms or date of first positive test while asymptomatic. However, if a person within 3 months of symptom onset of their initial illness or since specimen collection (if asymptomatic) of the first positive COVID-19 PCR/antigen test has a new exposure to a person with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 and recovered from laboratory-confirmed infection and has met criteria to end isolation, but has or develops new symptoms consistent with COVID-19 within 14 days of the new exposure, consultation with a health care provider is recommended, and consultation with infectious disease or infection control experts may be necessary. If an alternative cause of the symptoms cannot be identified, retesting for SARS-CoV-2 infection may be warranted. In the absence of clinical evaluation to rule out SARS-CoV-2 reinfection, this person should be isolated following the recommendations above.

**A person who had known [close contact](#) with a confirmed COVID-19 case should [quarantine](#) for 14 days from their last exposure to the case regardless of negative tests results or illness where no testing was performed. However, if they test positive for COVID-19 by PCR or antigen testing, they should follow the relevant [isolation guidance](#). Healthcare workers and critical infrastructure workers should follow guidance that includes special consideration for these groups. If you are a healthcare worker or critical infrastructure worker, please follow-up with your employer or HR for specific guidelines. For a person previously diagnosed with COVID-19 who recovered from laboratory-confirmed infection and has met criteria to end isolation and remains asymptomatic, quarantine is not

recommended in the event of close contact with an infected person within 3 months of symptom onset of their initial illness or since specimen collection (if asymptomatic) of the first positive COVID-19 PCR/antigen test. However, if a person is identified as a contact of a new case 3 months or more after symptom onset or since specimen collection (if asymptomatic) of the first positive COVID-19 PCR/antigen test, they should follow quarantine recommendations for contacts. Post acute care facilities should utilize the same quarantine criteria for patient admissions and readmissions.

Recent Updates to Guidance

The following changes were made to the guidance:

- Added guidance on individuals exposed to COVID-19 within 3 months of their initial infection, clarification on definitions of exposure and close contacts, and definition for infectious period.

Glossary of Terms

1. **Close contact** for COVID-19 is defined as any of the following exposures to an individual during their infectious period:
 - Individual who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period*
 - Individual providing care in a household without using [recommended infection control precautions](#)
 - Individual who has had direct physical contact (hugging or kissing)
 - Individual who has shared eating and/or drinking utensils, and
 - Individual who has been sneezed on, coughed on, or got respiratory droplets on them.

*Individual exposures added together over a 24-hour period (e.g., three 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes). Data are limited, making it difficult to precisely define “close contact;” however, 15 cumulative minutes of exposure at a distance of 6 feet or less can be used as an operational definition for contact investigation. Factors to consider when defining close contact include proximity (closer distance likely increases exposure risk), the duration of exposure (longer exposure time likely increases exposure risk), whether the infected individual has symptoms (the period around onset of symptoms is associated with the highest levels of viral shedding), if the infected person was likely to generate respiratory aerosols (e.g., was coughing, singing, shouting), and other environmental factors (crowding, adequacy of ventilation, whether exposure was indoors or outdoors). Because the general public has not received training on proper selection and use of respiratory PPE, such as an N95, the determination of close contact should generally be made irrespective of whether the contact was wearing respiratory PPE. At this time, differential determination of close contact for those using fabric face coverings is not recommended.

2. **Infectious period** is the timeframe an individual can transmit disease to others. For COVID-19, this starts from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to positive specimen collection) until the time the individual discontinues isolation.
3. **Isolation** separates sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick.
4. **Quarantine** separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick. For COVID-19, this means staying home or in a private room with a private bathroom for 14 days after last contact with a person who has COVID-19.
5. **Severe/critical illness:** Illness due to COVID-19 that required any intensive care during hospitalization.
6. **Severely immunocompromised** means you have:
 - Been taking chemotherapy for cancer recently;
 - HIV and a CD4 T-cell count <200;
 - An immunodeficiency disorder;
 - Been taking high-dose steroids (like prednisone 20mg/day for >14days); OR
 - Another condition that a healthcare provider has told you makes you severely immunocompromised.
7. **Symptomatic:** People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:
 - Fever or chills
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea

This list does not include all possible symptoms. Public Health will [continue to update](#) this list as we learn more about COVID-19.