



July 8, 2022

Revised Protocols for the Implementation of Isolation and Quarantine of Individuals in OPWDD Certified Facilities Following COVID-19 Exposure or Infection

This advisory will clarify when individuals should be placed on isolation and/or quarantine in NYS Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) certified facilities. This guidance supersedes any other guidance from OPWDD on this topic. The guidelines found within this document apply to providers of services to individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities certified and/or operated by OPWDD. Please note that the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and NYS Department of Health (NYSDOH) guidance is frequently updated, and this guidance is, therefore, subject to change.

The NYSDOH has issued guidance dated May 31, 2022, titled “*NEW REVISED* Isolation and Quarantine Guidance” which describes the NYS approach to COVID-19 quarantine and isolation. The NYS DOH guidance document can be found at the following link:

https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2022/06/quarantine-and-isolation-guidance_05.31.22.pdf

The NYSDOH May 31, 2022, document describes the NYS approach to COVID-19 Quarantine, including who does and does not have to quarantine after close contact with someone with COVID-19, how to quarantine, the NYS approach to COVID-19 Isolation, including who has to isolate, how to isolate and how to end isolation. There are additional quarantine and isolation requirements for congregate care settings, special populations, and nursing homes on pages 6 and 7 of this NYSDOH document.

Except for those individuals who meet criteria identified in the exceptions listed below, effective the date of this document, individuals who are fully vaccinated and fully boosted and living in Individual Residential Alternatives (IRAs) or Community Residences (CR) certified by OPWDD may begin following the guidelines for individuals who do not have to quarantine outlined in the May 31, 2022, NYS DOH document, pages 1-2. Specifically:

Who does **Not** Have to Quarantine After Close Contact with Someone With COVID-19?

- *Anyone who is up to date on their COVID-19 vaccinations:*

- o Anyone ages 5 or older and who has received all CDC recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses, including booster(s) if eligible and additional primary shots for some immunocompromised people.
For more information, please see current CDC definition of “up to date”.
- Anyone who has had confirmed COVID-19 within the last 90 days (tested positive using a viral test, e.g. antigen or PCR).

What To Do if Not Subject to Quarantine:

- Wear a well-fitting mask around others for 10 days from the date of last close contact with someone with COVID-19 (the date of last close contact is considered day 0).
- Get tested at least 5 days after the date of last close contact with someone with COVID-19. If test is positive or COVID-19 symptoms develop, isolate from other people and follow recommendations in the **Isolation section** of the NYSDOH May 31, 2022, guidance document.
- Anyone who had COVID-19 within the last 90 days and has since recovered and remained symptom free, does not need to get tested after close contact with someone with COVID-19.
- If an exposed person who does not have to quarantine cannot separate from one or more individuals with COVID-19 who are in isolation (e.g., because the exposed person lives in the same household with a sick individual who needs care), then the exposed person will have ongoing exposure until the infected person is no longer contagious. See detailed testing and mask recommendations in the “Ongoing COVID-19 Exposure FAQs” section of CDC's quarantine and isolation page.
- If an exposed person who does not have to quarantine travels during the 10 days after last close contact, the person should wear a well-fitting mask when around others for the entire duration of travel during the 10 days. Anyone unable to wear a mask should not travel during the 10 days. Travelers should get tested at least 5 days after the date of the last close contact, receive a negative test result before travel or further travel, and be symptom free.

Who **Must** Quarantine After Close Contact With Someone With COVID-19?

- Anyone who is **not up to date** on their COVID-19 vaccinations.
 - o Anyone who is not vaccinated or has not completed a primary vaccine series.

- *Anyone ages 5 or older who has completed the primary series of recommended vaccine, and is eligible for a CDC recommended booster shot (1st or 2nd), but has not received it.*

Additionally, note that any individual living in an IRA or CR who has been diagnosed with confirmed COVID-19 within the last 90 days does not need to quarantine.

Definitions

Exposure is defined as having contact with someone infected with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, in a way that increases the likelihood of getting infected with the virus. *Close Contact* is defined as someone who was less than 6 feet away from an infected person (laboratory-confirmed or a clinical diagnosis) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period. For example, three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes. People who are exposed to someone with COVID-19 after they completed at least 5 days of isolation are not considered close contacts.

Fully Vaccinated is defined as anyone who is up to date on their COVID-19 vaccinations:

- Anyone ages 5 or older and who has received all [CDC recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses](#), including [booster\(s\)](#) if eligible and [additional primary shots](#) for some immunocompromised people.

For more information, please see current CDC definition of "[up to date](#)".

Fully Boosted for the purposes of this document is defined as having received any booster that an individual meets the criteria for. For Pfizer and Moderna, the criteria are as follows:

- First booster – everyone 5 years of age and older should get one booster after completing their COVID-19 vaccination primary series.
 - The first booster can be given 5 months after the last dose of the primary series.
- Second booster
 - Adults ages 50 years and older.
 - People ages 12 years and older who are moderately or severely compromised.
 - The second booster can be given 4 months after the first booster.

*Note that Johnson & Johnson cannot be used as a 2nd booster dose.

Medical Home is defined as a home where there are Registered Nurses and/or Licensed Practical Nurses on site 24 hours providing direct services.

Exceptions

The following provides guidance on those sites/residences that need to continue to adhere to the requirements for *Quarantine and Isolation for Congregate Settings and Special Populations* found on page 6-7 of the NYSDOH document updated on May 31, 2022, titled “*NEW REVISED* Isolation and Quarantine Guidance”. Specifically, the section on ***Quarantine and Isolation for Congregate Settings and Special Populations***:

Correctional Facilities, Adult Care Facilities, Group Homes, Other Congregate Settings
CDC’s recommendations for shortened quarantine and isolation **does not** apply to correctional facilities, detention facilities, homeless shelters, and cruise ships. Those settings, as well as other congregate settings with high-risk individuals or at high risk for transmission, should continue to follow previous guidance for a 10-day quarantine or isolation for residents/clients. Other congregate settings that should continue to implement 10-day quarantine or isolation for residents/clients include adult care facilities, OPWDD facilities, and some OMH facilities, depending on ability of residents/clients in the OMH facilities to wear a mask, socially distance, and follow other mitigation measures.

While staff in these same facilities can isolate or quarantine for 5 days according to the guidance in this document, they should furlough (not work) for 10-days following infection or exposure due to the high-risk population served in these facilities. If staffing shortages jeopardize the safe provision of services or resident health and safety, facilities may implement a 5-day duration of furlough to the extent necessary.

Pursuant to that guidance, the following individuals must continue to quarantine for 10 days after exposure, regardless of vaccination status:

1. Individuals in Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs) and those in medical homes must adhere to the protocols on page 6 and 7. To clarify, this means that, regardless of vaccination status or previous infection, any time one of these homes has an individual who is placed on isolation after having been confirmed positive or who is presumed positive for COVID, the entire home must quarantine for a total of 10 days.
 2. Any individual that is considered moderately or severely immunocompromised (have a weakened immune system) must also isolate for at least 10 days, regardless of vaccination status, inclusive of those individuals who live in an IRA or a CR. A consultation with the primary care physician should be obtained for this group of individuals to determine if the length of time for isolation should be increased for up to 20 days based on their medical condition(s).
- Examples of individuals considered to be moderately or severely immunocompromised per the CDC include:

- Those receiving active cancer treatment for tumors or cancers of the blood.
- Those who received an organ transplant and are taking medication to suppress the immune system.
- Those who received chimeric antigen receptor (CAR)-T-cell therapy (a treatment to help the immune system attach and kill cancer cells) or received a stem cell transplant within the last 2 years.
- Those with a moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency.
- Those with advanced or untreated Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infection.
- Those receiving active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids or other drugs that may suppress the immune system.
- Examples of these and other conditions can be found at:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html>
- [Additional information on COVID-19 vaccinations for individuals who are moderately or severely immunocompromised can be found at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/immuno.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/immuno.html)
- If you are unsure if an individual you are supporting falls under any of these categories, it is recommended that you follow the more stringent guidance of the 10 full days of isolation.

Additional Questions

General questions or comments about this advisory can be sent to Susan B. Prendergast, RN, BS, OPWDD Director of Nursing and Health Services at:
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