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DATE: April 22, 2021
TO: Local Health Departments (LHDs) and other affected entities
FROM: New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH)

UPDATE to HEALTH ADVISORY: QUARANTINE FOR COMMUNITY PERSONS EXPOSED TO COVID-19

Summary

- This document supersedes the April 1, 2021 guidance on quarantine for community persons exposed to COVID-19.
- This update aligns the guidance with changes to the New York State Travel Advisory that went into effect on April 10, 2021 and aligns with CDC requirements and recommendations for [domestic](#) and [international](#) travel released April 2, 2021.

General Definitions

- **Fully vaccinated** is defined as being 2 or more weeks after the final dose (e.g., first for Janssen/Johnson & Johnson, second for Pfizer and Moderna) of the vaccine approved by the FDA or authorized by the FDA for emergency use.
 - Vaccines that are not authorized by the U.S. Federal Drug Administration (FDA) for emergency use or approved by the FDA do not satisfy this definition.
- **Recently recovered** is defined as 1) recovered from laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 by meeting the criteria for discontinuation of isolation; 2) within the 3-month period between date of arrival in New York and either the initial onset of symptoms related to the laboratory confirmed COVID-19 infection or, if asymptomatic during the illness, the date of the laboratory confirmed test; and 3) asymptomatic after travel or new exposure.
- **Domestic travel** is defined as travel lasting 24 hours or longer to states or US territories other than contiguous states (i.e., Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Vermont).

Quarantine Requirements

1. Fully vaccinated individuals exposed to COVID-19

- **Asymptomatic** individuals who have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 do **not** need to quarantine after exposure to COVID-19.
- Fully vaccinated individuals exposed to COVID-19 who are experiencing **symptoms** consistent with COVID-19 must isolate themselves and should be clinically evaluated for COVID-19 and tested for COVID-19 if indicated.

- This guidance applies to all fully vaccinated people. However, individuals should be encouraged to consult with their healthcare provider if they have any questions about their individual situation, such as immunocompromising conditions or other concerns.

2. Recently recovered individuals exposed to COVID-19

- **Asymptomatic** individuals exposed to COVID-19 who have been recently diagnosed with laboratory confirmed COVID-19, and have since recovered, are **not** required to retest and quarantine provided the new exposure is within 3 months after the date of symptom onset from the initial COVID-19 infection or date of first positive diagnostic test if asymptomatic during illness.
- This guidance applies to all people who have recently recovered from COVID-19 and are newly exposed to COVID-19. However, individuals should be encouraged to consult with their healthcare provider if they have any questions about their individual situation, such as immunocompromising conditions or other concerns.

3. Individuals who are neither fully vaccinated nor recently recovered and are exposed to COVID-19

- Individuals who have been exposed to someone with confirmed or suspected COVID-19, who are not fully vaccinated or have not recovered from COVID-19 in the previous 3 months, **are required to quarantine for 10 days after exposure.**
- Testing is not required to end quarantine if no [symptoms](#) have been reported during the quarantine period. However, a test should be sought immediately if any symptoms develop during the 14 days after exposure. Guidance regarding quarantine can be found [here](#).

Travelers

Individuals should refer to the [NYS travel guidance](#) for updated NYS travel guidance. As of April 10, 2021, there are generally no quarantine requirements for asymptomatic travelers, but furlough requirements remain for specific categories of HCP.

Healthcare Personnel Furlough

Healthcare personnel should refer to the current healthcare personnel return to work guidance for information about furlough after exposure.

Monitoring Requirements for Everyone after Exposure to COVID-19

Irrespective of quarantine status, all individuals exposed to COVID-19 must:

- Monitor symptoms daily from day of exposure (or first date of awareness of exposure if there is a delay) through Day 14;
- Continue strict adherence to all recommended non-pharmaceutical interventions, including hand hygiene and the use of face coverings, through Day 14 (even if fully vaccinated);

- Immediately self-isolate if any symptoms develop and contact the local public health authority or their health care provider to report this change in clinical status and determine if they should seek testing.

Local Health Departments and Quarantine Orders

Local health departments (LHDs) will continue to identify individuals who may have been exposed to COVID-19. Contact tracing interviews now include questions about vaccination status and previous COVID infection. Contact tracers may validate reports of vaccination status in NYSIS or CIR, the statewide immunization registry, during the interview. Fully vaccinated individuals do not need to quarantine after exposure.

Additional Information

This guidance applies only to asymptomatic individuals who have been exposed to COVID-19 and who have not tested positive as a result of a recent exposure. Consistent with ongoing NYS DOH requirements, individuals who test **positive for COVID-19 must isolate**. Information on the criteria and duration for isolation can be found [here](#).