

Long-Term Care Facilities Guidance for Quarantine of Fully Vaccinated Staff and Residents After an Exposure

Even though someone may not feel sick, they may still become sick or have COVID-19 after an exposure. Vaccination helps prevent infection and are very effective in preventing symptomatic and severe COVID-19. As more individuals get the COVID-19 vaccination in our county and our Long-Term Care Facilities it becomes less likely that someone who is vaccinated will get symptomatic COVID-19 or severe disease, but we are still learning about the vaccines-- how long the protection will last, how well the vaccine works against variants, and if people can still transmit COVID-19 to others; therefore, at this time, vaccinated residents and staff still need to continue to follow current guidance to protect themselves and others, regardless of their vaccination status, including wearing a mask, staying at least 6 feet away from others, avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated spaces, as able, covering coughs and sneezes, washing hands often, and following guidance for personal protective equipment use based on resident COVID-19 status and COVID-19 testing.

As we learn more about the vaccines, cautious and gradual changes, based on staff and residents vaccination status and facility type (healthcare vs non-healthcare setting), can begin for certain recommendations, such as quarantine, in accordance with [CDC guidance for fully vaccinated individuals](#), [CDC infection control guidance after vaccination](#), and appropriate licensing bodies guidance.

With these gradual changes in guidance, based on vaccination status, it is important for facilities to also continue to remain vigilant for breakthrough infections after vaccination and transmission in long term care facilities through ongoing staff surveillance testing, preventive measures within the facility, monitoring staff and resident for any symptoms, and response testing after positives or for symptomatic staff or residents.

Guidance For Quarantine for Fully Vaccinated Individuals

Fully vaccinated individuals who meet criteria will no longer be required to quarantine following an exposure to someone with COVID-19 if they meet **ALL** of the following criteria:

- They are fully vaccinated (it has been 2 weeks or more after getting the second dose in a 2-dose vaccine series, or 2 weeks or more after getting a single in a one-dose vaccine series) **AND**
- They have not developed any symptoms since their close contact.

Exceptions to this quarantine criteria applies for fully vaccinated resident in Long-Term Care Facilities (Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs), Intermediate Care Facilities (ICF), Assisted Living Facilities (ALF), Board and Care, etc), other non-healthcare congregate settings (e.g., correctional and detention facilities, group homes, residential treatment facilities, etc), and for patients in healthcare facilities as noted below.



Individuals who meet the criteria above and do not need to quarantine should still follow all preventive measures and watch for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days after their close contact.

Individuals who are positive for COVID-19 are considered a case, regardless of their vaccination status, and should isolate appropriately. Additionally, the same follow up with guidance around quarantine should take place for their close contacts.

Resident Quarantine and Testing

Fully vaccinated patients in healthcare settings, and residents in both long-term care facilities and other non-healthcare congregate settings who have had an exposure should continue to follow quarantine and testing guidance in these settings, appropriate transmission-based guidelines, follow up testing after an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19, and all testing during any outbreak or response testing. Facilities should inform all healthcare settings, which includes outpatient clinical settings (dialysis, clinics, etc) and other hospital settings, of any patient who has had close contact to a COVID-19 case, regardless of the resident vaccination status, so staff in these settings can use the appropriate transmission-based precautions.

New admissions into long-term care facilities do not need to quarantine on admission if they are fully vaccinated, unless they are awaiting their COVID-19 test results, there was an exposure to someone with COVID-19 in the past 14 days, or there are other concerns prior to admission. Facilities should also review new admission policies and procedures from their appropriate licensing body to ensure they are in adherence with these. New admissions who are fully vaccinated still need to follow all preventive measures. Facilities should also continue to monitor these residents for any symptoms and immediately isolate and test for COVID-19 if any concerns arise. New admissions **who are not** fully vaccinated should **always quarantine** as a new admission and test.

Staff Quarantine, Work Restrictions, and Testing

Fully vaccinated staff in any healthcare settings and any congregate settings (long-term care facilities, treatment facilities, shelters, group homes, etc) who meet the criteria above for a fully vaccinated person, and do not have COVID-19 like symptoms, do not need to quarantine after a high risk workplace exposure as defined in healthcare workers with potential exposure to COVID-19 or after a community exposure/close contact to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19, but should test following an exposure, with any outbreak or response testing, and continue their routine workplace screening programs. Staff should also continue to monitor their symptoms closely and immediately isolate and test if they develop any COVID-19 symptoms.

Please also review:

- CDPH AFL 21-08.2: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/AFL-21-08.aspx>
- CDC Updated Healthcare Infection Prevention in Response to COVID-19 vaccinations: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-after-vaccination.html>
- CDC Interim guidance for fully vaccinated people: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>

