



Frequently Asked Questions

Covid-19

Definitions

Case: A person who has a positive COVID test

Presumed Positive: A person who has had direct contact with a COVID positive individual who develops symptoms of COVID

PUI (Person Under Investigation): An individual who meets the symptom criteria for COVID testing, used while waiting for testing to occur and results to be obtained.

Isolation: Term for the time spent separated from other contacts used for a person who is a Case/presumed positive

Quarantine: Term for the time spent separated from other contact used for a person who is a contact of a case or a presumed positive.

Close Contact: Being within 6 feet of an individual for more 15 minutes regardless of mask

Q. Who must quarantine after close contact with a COVID-19 positive or presumed positive case?

A. An individual should quarantine if he/she has been in close contact with a COVID-19 positive case or presumed positive case anytime starting with the:

- 48 hours prior to the onset of symptoms (for the individual who is symptomatic) OR
- 48 hours prior to the time of the COVID-19 test (for the individual who is asymptomatic)

As always, all medical questions and concerns related to COVID-19 should be directed to your family physician.

Q. What if only one person in my house must quarantine?

A. It is recommended that the individual quarantines within a space in the home where he/she will not come into close contact with household individuals, defined as being within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes (i.e. his/her bedroom). If the individual needs to come out of that space,

we recommend wearing a mask whenever possible and trying to remain 6 feet apart as much as possible.

Q. If my child, family member living at home, or spouse is deemed to be a contact to a COVID positive or presumed positive case, but I am not, do I have to quarantine?

A. A contact to a contact does not have to quarantine. If your family member, who is the contact to a contact, develops symptoms or has a positive test, then you would become a contact and would enter quarantine.

Q. If I have been told to quarantine, but I am asymptomatic and have a negative result from a COVID-19 test, do I still have to quarantine?

A. A negative COVID-19 test does not change an individual's quarantine. You can have a negative test and go on to develop symptoms after the fact and truly have COVID-19. Even with a negative test you must quarantine for the full quarantine time.

Q. For how long exactly do I have to quarantine?

A. You must quarantine for 14 days from your last contact with an infectious person. If that person is not within your household, then it would be 14 days from the last time you came into close contact with the infectious person. If the infectious person is within your household and you are coming into close contact with him/her during his/her isolation period, you will have to quarantine through the infectious person's isolation and then for an additional 14 days after the isolation period is complete, which may be up to 24 days or more. The infectious person is contagious for the entire isolation period, which means you could contact COVID-19 on the last day of the infectious person's quarantine.

Q. For how long does someone with COVID-19 have to be in isolation?

A. An individual with COVID-19 is in isolation for at least 10 days. All three criteria for release from isolation must be met:

1. 10 days from the onset of symptoms (or positive COVID-19 test if asymptomatic); and
2. Fever free for at least 24-hours without fever reducing medication; and
3. Respiratory symptoms have improved

Q. Do I need to quarantine if someone in my household is getting tested for COVID-19?

A. If someone in your household is asymptomatic and is tested for COVID-19 for a pre-procedural testing or routine screening for his/her employment, you do not need to quarantine while awaiting his/her results. However, if someone in your household is symptomatic and tested, then your entire household should quarantine while awaiting COVID-19 results.

For more information about COVID-19, please visit:

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Policy Lab: <https://policylab.chop.edu/reports-and-tools/policy-review-evidence-and-considerations-school-reopenings>

COVID-19 Patient Instructions for Self-Isolation While Awaiting Laboratory Result:

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Documents/HAN/COVID19%20Patient%20Instructions%20for%20Self%20Isolation.pdf>