



IMPERIAL COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
935 BROADWAY ST.
EL CENTRO, CA 92243
TEL: (442) 265-1444

ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER
(Isolation of All Persons with or Likely to have COVID-19)

The spread of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a substantial threat to the public's health. Imperial County is currently subject to a declared local health emergency and a proclaimed local emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Governor of the State of California proclaimed a state of emergency. Everyone is at risk for becoming ill with COVID-19, but some people are more vulnerable to serious illness due to age or underlying health conditions. In order to slow the spread of COVID-19 and prevent the healthcare system in Imperial County from being overwhelmed, it is necessary for the Health Officer of the County of Imperial (Health Officer) to require the isolation of persons diagnosed with, or likely to have COVID-19.

The Health Officer therefore **ORDERS** pursuant to California Health and Safety Code sections, 101040, 120130, 120175, 120215, 120220, and 120225:

- 1. Individuals are required to isolate themselves because they have, or are likely to have, COVID-19. Isolation is immediately required if a person meets one or more of the following criteria:**
 - a. A confirmed positive diagnostic laboratory test for COVID-19; or
 - b. Signs and symptoms that are consistent with COVID-19 (cough, shortness of breath or trouble breathing, fatigue, fever or chills, muscle or body aches, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea); or
 - c. A physician has informed the individual that they are likely to have COVID-19.

Such persons are required to be isolated because a person infected with, or likely to have COVID-19, can easily spread the virus to others. Isolation separates these persons from others to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and protects those at higher risk for serious illness, such as older adults and people who have underlying health conditions.

The person shall cooperate with any physician or persons authorized by the Health Officer to perform medical observation during the period of isolation.

Infectious Period: □ For symptomatic infected persons, 2 days before the infected person had any symptoms through Day 10 after symptoms first appeared (or through Day 5 if testing negative on Day 5

or later), and 24 hours have passed with no fever, without the use of fever-reducing medications, and symptoms have improved, OR

- For asymptomatic infected persons, 2 days before the positive specimen collection date through Day 10 after positive specimen collection date (or through Day 5 if testing negative on Day 5 or later) after specimen collection date for their first positive COVID-19 test.

For the purposes of identifying close contacts and exposures, infected persons who test negative on or after Day 5 and end isolation, in accordance with the California Department of Public Health [Guidance for Local Health Jurisdictions on Isolation and Quarantine of the General Public](#), are no longer considered to be within their infectious period. Such persons should continue to follow isolation recommendations, including wearing a well-fitting face mask through Day 10. Infected persons should mask indoors and when around others during a full 10 days following symptom onset (or positive test if no symptoms).

2. All persons with COVID-19 symptoms, regardless of vaccination status or previous infection should do the following:

- Self-isolate and test as soon as possible to determine infection status. For symptomatic persons who have tested positive within the previous 90 days, using an antigen test is preferred.
- Remain in isolation while waiting for test results.
- If a person chooses not to test, they should continue isolating for 10 days after the day of symptom onset.
- Consider self-isolation and retesting in 1-2 days if testing negative with an antigen test, particularly if the negative test was done during the first 1-2 days of symptoms.
- Continue to self-isolate if the test result is positive and follow the recommended actions below:
 - Stay home for at least 5 days after the onset of symptoms.
 - Isolation can end after day 5 if symptoms are not present or are resolving *and* a diagnostic specimen (antigen test is preferred) collected on day 5 or later tests negative.
 - If unable to test, choosing not to test, or testing positive on day 5 (or later), isolation can end after day 10 if fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications.
 - If fever is present, isolation should be continued until 24 hours after fever resolves
 - If symptoms, other than fever, are not resolving, continue to isolate until symptoms are resolving or until after Day 10.
 - Infected persons should wear a mask that fits well around others for 10 days, especially in indoor settings.

3. Qualifying health care personnel shall comply with the most recent California Department of Public Health's Guidance on Quarantine and Isolation for Health Care Personnel (HCP) Exposed to SARSCoV-2 and Return to Work for HCP with COVID-19, the current version is available here, and may be subsequently amended: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/AFL-21-08.aspx>.

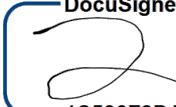
- Health care workers with moderate to severe history of immunocompromise require internal occupational health consultation before returning to work, in addition to these conditions.
- Health care facilities with contingency or critical staffing shortages may waive these conditions. Implementation in health care facilities is contingent on applicable California Department of Public Health regulations and All-Facility Letters (AFLs).

4. Persons who test positive for COVID-19 in K-12 settings should follow isolation protocols listed in item 2.

5. Violation of, or failure to comply with, this Order is a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment, fine, or both (California Health and Safety Code sections 120275 and 120295). This Order may be enforced by any law enforcement officer within an area subject to their jurisdiction for the purpose of preventing the spread of a contagious, infectious, or communicable disease (California Government Code sections 26602 and 41601, and California Health and Safety Code section 101029).

6. This order is effective beginning at 12:01 a.m. on April 14, 2022.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

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Stephen Munday, M.D., M.P.H.
Public Health Officer
County of Imperial