



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

ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER
(Quarantine of All Persons with Exposure to COVID-19)

As the SARS-CoV-2 virus has evolved to have a shorter incubation period (e.g., average 2-3 days), usually by the time identified exposed contacts are notified, their incubation period is over and the most relevant time period for restricting movement by quarantine has passed. In addition, we are now transitioning to a phase in the pandemic where many in our communities have been vaccinated against and/or previously infected with SARS-CoV-2, the virus causing COVID-19; transmission is at lower levels than earlier this year during the surge caused by the Omicron variant; and effective vaccines and treatment options are available to reduce the severity of disease and resulting hospitalizations, deaths, and stress on our infrastructure and healthcare systems. Additionally, the financial, social and societal burden of having those exposed stay home, is high, particularly for certain populations, including children and economically vulnerable communities.

Recommendations related to isolation of individuals who have tested positive or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms are described in the Imperial County COVID-19 Isolation Order which can be found here: <https://www.icphd.org/health-information-and-resources/healthy-facts/covid-19/state-&county-orders/>.

This order requires persons to follow the quarantine periods and measures applicable to their unique situation. The length of the quarantine, and the measure to be taken, may be different based on factors such as vaccination status, health conditions, COVID-19 symptoms, workplace setting, or school setting. Since these requirements may change based on new data, this Order incorporates detailed quarantine criteria and measures in the hyperlinks below. If the documents linked below are updated, those updates will automatically be part of this Order.

This Order does not prevent an employer, school, facility, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), or a licensing agency from imposing more stringent quarantine requirements.

The Health Officer therefore **ORDERS** pursuant to California Health and Safety Code sections, 101040, 101030, 120175, 120215, 120220, and 120225:

1. **Close Contacts:** Someone sharing the same indoor airspace, e.g., home, clinic waiting room, airplane etc., 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) during an infected person's (laboratory confirmed or a clinical diagnosis) infectious period.

2. All Persons who are “close contacts” as stated above shall comply with the applicable quarantine measures set forth below.
 - a) Members of the **general public** who are close contacts shall follow all applicable quarantine measures identified in the California Department of Public Health’s most recent *Guidance for Local Health Jurisdictions on Isolation and Quarantine of the General Public*. The current version is available here, and may be subsequently amended:
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Guidance-on-Isolation-and-Quarantine-for-COVID-19-Contact-Tracing.aspx>.
 - b) 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 SARS-CoV-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>.
 - c) If a person is exposed to COVID-19 in a K-12 school setting, they should follow the guidelines set forth in the most recent *California Department of Public Health’s COVID-19 Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2021-2022 School Year*:
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/K-12-Guidance-2021-22School-Year.aspx>.
3. During critical staffing shortages, employers may use alternative quarantine/work exclusion guidance for their workforce or facility where specifically permitted by CDPH or an applicable State licensing agency (e.g., waiver from Cal/OSHA from the return to-work requirements of the Emergency Temporary Standards).
4. **High-Risk Settings**
 - a) A high-risk setting is one in which transmission risk is high and populations served are at risk of more serious COVID-19 disease consequences including severe illness, hospitalization, and death.
 - b) High-risk settings include:
 - Emergency shelters and cooling and heating centers
 - Healthcare settings not covered by AFL 21.08.8
 - Local correctional facilities and detention centers
 - Homeless shelters
 - Adult and senior care facilities
 - c) The following work restrictions are recommended in these settings for unvaccinated staff, incompletely vaccinated staff, or staff who have not been infected with COVID-19 in the previous 90 days:
 - Exclude from work for at least 5 days after last exposure.
 - Work exclusion can end after day 5 if symptoms are not present and a diagnostic specimen collected on Day 5 or later tests negative.

- If unable or choosing not to test and symptoms are not present, work exclusion can end after day 10.
- Comply with current masking guidance from the California Department of Public Health.
- Strongly encouraged to get vaccinated or boosted.
- If test result is positive, follow instructions in the most recent County Isolation Order found here:
<https://www.icphd.org/health-information-and-resources/healthy-facts/covid-19/state&-county-orders/>.

d) Residents in high-risk facilities should do the following:

- Quarantine for at least 5 days after last exposure.
- Quarantine can end after Day 5 if symptoms are not present and resident tests negative.
- If unable or choosing not to test and asymptomatic, quarantine can end after day 10.
- Comply with current masking guidelines.
- Strongly encouraged to get vaccinated or boosted.
- If symptoms develop, stay home, test as soon as possible, and follow guidelines in the most recent County Isolation Order.


*Home Quarantine Guidance for COVID-19 Close Contacts*¹ should be followed by those on home quarantine, because of exposure to a COVID-19 Patient.

If you develop symptoms, please contact your medical provider. Signs and symptoms that are consistent with COVID-19 include 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. Based on guidance from your medical provider, you may need to isolate and get tested for COVID-19.

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).

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

IT IS SO ORDERED:

DocuSigned by:

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Stephen Munday, M.D., M.P.H.

¹ <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Guidance-on-Isolation-and-Quarantine-for-COVID-19-Contact-Tracing.aspx>

Public Health Officer
County of Imperial