

County of Imperial
Amended Order of the Health Officer

(Isolation of all persons with or likely to have COVID-19)

Pursuant to sections 101040, 120130, 120175, and 120215, 120220, and 120225 of the California Health and Safety Code, the Imperial County Health Officer (“Health Officer”) hereby amends and supersedes the Health Officer Isolation Order dated January 8, 2022. The Health Officer hereby **ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:**

1. The spread of COVID-19 is a substantial threat to the public’s health and safety. The County of Imperial (“County”) is currently subject to a declared local health emergency and a proclaimed local emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Omicron variant, designated as a variant of concern, has been identified in California and a number of other states. Early data regarding the Omicron variant suggest the increased transmissibility of the Omicron variant is two to four times as infectious as the Delta variant, and there is evidence of immune evasion. Recent evidence also shows that vaccine effectiveness against COVID-19 infection is decreasing over time without boosters.
2. On December 27, 2021, the CDC updated their Isolation and Quarantine recommendations for the general public that indicates the majority of COVID-19 transmission occurs within the first few days after contracting the virus.
3. COVID Positive Persons are required to be isolated because they can easily spread COVID-19 to other individuals. Isolation separates COVID Positive Persons from others and protects those at higher risk for serious illness such as older adults and people with weakened immune systems.
4. For the purposes of this Order, an individual is considered to be a COVID Positive Person if that individual meets any of the following criteria:
 - a. The individual, whether symptomatic or not, has received a positive molecular lab test for COVID-19 through a test authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (“FDA”) under an emergency use authorization (“EUA”), excluding serology (antibody) testing (<https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/emergency-situations-medical-devices/emergency-use-authorizations#coronavirus2019>); or
 - b. The individual is exhibiting signs and symptoms that are consistent with COVID-19, as determined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>) (“ COVID Symptoms”), and a licensed medical provider has informed the individual that they are likely to have COVID-19.

5. Upon learning that a patient is a COVID Positive Person, the patient's medical provider shall immediately do the following:
 - a. Make a determination as to whether the COVID Positive Person is severely immunocompromised, and whether the COVID Positive Person is asymptomatic, or has mild illness, moderate illness, severe illness, or critical illness, as those terms are defined by the CDC (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/disposition-hospitalized-patients.html#fn1>). This Order shall apply to individuals that are not severely immunocompromised, and that are asymptomatic, or have a mild or moderate illness.
 - b. Provide the COVID Positive Person with a copy of this Order, and notify the Health Officer and/or his representative of the positive COVID-19 case. The medical provider shall provide written confirmation that it has provided a copy of this Order to the COVID Positive Person at the time of hospital discharge, via the Discharge Plan for Confirmed COVID-19 Cases. For COVID-positive patients who are not hospitalized, the medical provider shall provide a copy of this Order; however, no discharge plan shall be required.
 - c. Provide the COVID Positive Person with a copy of the Health Officer's Quarantine Order, which can be found on the County's COVID-19 webpage (<http://www.icphd.org/health-information-and-resources/healthy-facts/covid-19/>). The medical provider shall instruct the COVID Positive Person to share the Health Officer's Quarantine Order with all individuals that have had close contact with the COVID Positive Person, as outlined in Paragraph 6(c) below.
6. Upon receiving notice that an individual is a COVID Positive Person that is not severely immunocompromised, and that is asymptomatic, or is experiencing mild or moderate illness, the Health Officer or his representative shall send a copy of this Order to the COVID Positive Person via e-mail. If the COVID Positive Person does not have access to e-mail, then a hard copy of this Order shall be mailed to the COVID Positive Person's place of isolation.
7. All COVID Positive Persons subject to this Order must immediately take the following actions:
 - a. Isolate in their home or another residence. If isolated in a congregate setting, hotel, or multi-unit setting, the person may not enter any other units within that setting. A COVID Positive Person may not leave their place of isolation or enter any public or private place, except to receive necessary medical care.
 - b. Carefully review and closely follow all requirements of the Health Officer and their medical provider.
 - c. Notify all individuals that have come into close contact with the COVID Positive Person that they should quarantine themselves for five (5) days after the last

contact. An individual is considered to be a close contact of a COVID Positive Person if, forty-eight (48) hours before the COVID Symptoms began, and until the COVID Positive Person is no longer required to be isolated, the individual:

- i. Was within six (6) feet of a COVID Positive Person for more than fifteen (15) minutes; or
- ii. Had unprotected contact with the body fluids and/or secretions (including but not limited to being coughed on or sneezed on, sharing utensils, or drinking out of the same container) of a COVID Positive Person.

The COVID Positive Person shall share the Health Officer's Quarantine Order with each individual that is considered a close contact. A copy of the Health Officer's Quarantine Order can be found on the County's COVID-19 webpage (<http://www.icphd.org/health-information-and-resources/healthy-facts/covid-19/>).

- d. Keep a minimum distance of six (6) feet between themselves and other individuals at all times, excluding a treating medical professional, a caretaker, a law enforcement officer enforcing this Order, a representative of the Health Officer, or any other person specifically authorized by the Health Officer.
- e. Cooperate with any medical provider, Health Officer representative, or other persons authorized by the Health Officer to perform medical observation during the period of isolation.

8. A COVID Positive Person shall isolate under this Order as follows:

- a. Stay home for at least 5 days.
- b. Isolation can end after day 5 *if symptoms are not present or are resolving* and a diagnostic specimen collected on day 5 or later tests negative.
- c. If unable to test or choosing not to test, and symptoms are not present or are resolving, isolation can end after day 10.
- d. *If fever is present, isolation should be continued until fever resolves.*
- e. *If symptoms, other than fever, are not resolving continue to isolate until symptoms are resolving or until after day 10.*
- f. Wear a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 10 days, especially in indoor settings
- g. Those with severe or critical illness¹ or those that are severely immunocompromised² must isolate for at least 10 days and may need to isolate up 20 days.

9. Temporary Work Restrictions for asymptomatic Healthcare and EMS Personnel who have been infected with Covid-19 (this section is effective from January 10, 2022 through February 1, 2022) :

¹ <https://www.covid19treatmentguidelines.nih.gov/overview/clinical-spectrum/>

² <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/hcp/immunocompromised-patients.html>

- a. *For all healthcare personnel:*
 - i. Healthcare personnel who have tested positive for Covid *and are asymptomatic* may return to work without testing or isolation.
 - ii. Healthcare personnel who have been exposed *and are asymptomatic* may return to work immediately and without testing or isolation.
 - iii. These healthcare personnel are *required* to wear an N95 respirator for source control.
- b. Facilities implementing the changes in section (a) must make every attempt to bring in additional registry or contract staff before bringing returning these healthcare personnel to work.
- c. Facilities who return healthcare personnel to work pursuant to this section should make every effort to only assign these personnel to work with patients who have already tested positive for Covid-19.

10. Work Restrictions for Healthcare and EMS Personnel with SARS-CoV-2 Infection (Isolation)
 (this section is effective beginning February 2, 2022, unless otherwise ordered):

- a. *For Boosted or Vaccinated but not booster-eligible personnel:*
 - i. Isolate for 5 days with negative diagnostic test³ same day or within 24 hours prior to return to work or 10 days without a viral test
 - ii. In situations where a critical staffing shortage exists, isolate for less than five days with a negative diagnostic test prior to returning to work.
- b. *For Unvaccinated or vaccinated, but booster-eligible personnel who have not received a booster dose:*
 - i. Isolate for 7 days with a negative diagnostic test same day or within 24 hours prior to return to work or 10 days without a viral test.
 - ii. In situations where a critical staffing shortage exists, personnel may isolate for 5 days with a negative diagnostic test prior to returning to work.

11. K-12 Schools: For both vaccinated and unvaccinated persons, follow the guidelines outlined in sections 7 and 8 of this order.

12. Once the criteria established under Paragraphs 8 and 9 for discontinuing isolation are met, a COVID Positive Person may discontinue isolation. No medical evaluation is necessary to be released from isolation, and beyond this Order, no written verification from the Health Officer, or any other medical provider, is required to return to workplaces or other public areas. Moreover, no clearance testing for COVID-19, such as molecular testing or serology, is necessary for release from isolation, once the criteria established under Paragraphs 7 or 8 for discontinuing isolation are met.

13. Exposed persons, whether quarantined or not:

³ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/testing.html>

- a. Should consider testing as soon as possible to determine infection status and follow all isolation recommendations above if tested positive.
 - b. If developing symptoms, should also:
 - i. Self-isolate and test as soon as possible (do not wait until 5 days after exposure to retest if symptoms develop earlier); AND
 - ii. Continue to self-isolate if test result is positive, and contact their healthcare provider regarding available treatments and any questions concerning their care.
14. If any subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Order, or any application of it, is held to be invalid, preempted, or unconstitutional by a decision of a court of competent jurisdiction, then such decision will not affect the validity of the remaining portions or applications of this Order.
15. This Order is issued in accordance with, and incorporates by reference any applicable federal, State, or local law, regulation, rule, policy, or procedure related to COVID-19, as they may be amended or supplemented.
16. To protect the public's health, the Health Officer may take additional action(s) for failure to comply with this Order. Violation of this Order is a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment, fine or both under sections 120295 et seq. of the California Health and Safety Code. Further, pursuant to sections 26602 and 41601 of the California Government Code, and section 101029 of the California Health and Safety Code, the Health Officer requests that the Sheriff and the Chiefs of Police in all cities located in the County ensure compliance with and enforcement of this Order.
17. This Order shall remain in effect until rescinded.

IT IS SO ORDERED:

Date: January 10, 2022


Stephen Munday (Jan 10, 2022 19:04 PST)

Stephen Munday, M.D., MPH
Health Officer