

County of Imperial
Order of the Health Officer
(Quarantine of All Persons Exposed to COVID-19)

Pursuant to sections 101030, 101040, 120175, and 120215, 120220, and 120225 of the California Health and Safety Code, the Imperial County Health Officer (“Health Officer”) hereby rescinds and supersedes the Health Officer Quarantine Order dated September 22, 2021. The Health Officer hereby **ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:**

WHEREAS, the spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“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 Governor of the state of California has 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 the County from becoming overwhelmed, it is necessary for the Health Officer of the County to require the quarantine of persons exposed to COVID-19 (“COVID Exposed Persons”); and

WHEREAS, household contacts, intimate partners, caregivers, and any other persons who have been in close contact with a person either diagnosed with COVID-19, or likely to have COVID-19 (“COVID Positive Person”) shall be considered COVID Exposed Persons. An individual is considered to be a close contact of a COVID Positive Person if, within forty-eight (48) hours before the symptoms began (or, for asymptomatic patients, two (2) days prior to test specimen collection), and until the COVID Positive Person is no longer required to be isolated, the individual:

- a. Was within six (6) feet of a COVID Positive Person for a cumulative total of fifteen (15) minutes or more over a twenty-four (24) hour period; OR
- b. 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; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) and the California Department of Public Health (“CDPH”) currently recommend that COVID Exposed Persons quarantine for a period of five (5) days after COVID-19 exposure. However, due to advances in the vaccinating the public against COVID-19, the CDC and CDPH recognize that quarantine may not be required when an individual has been fully vaccinated against COVID-19, or has fully recovered from a previous COVID-19 infection.

WHEREAS, this Order is intended to provide for the quarantine of COVID Exposed Persons, while at the same time, provide flexibility for those individuals that have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19, or have fully recovered from a previous COVID-19 infection.

THEREFORE, effective 12:01 a.m. on Saturday, January 8th, 2022, and continuing until rescinded, the following will be in effect for the County of Imperial:

1. Covid-exposed Persons who are unvaccinated or vaccinated and eligible, but have not yet received a booster dose:
 - a. Stay home (PDF) for at least 5 days, after your last contact with a person who has COVID-19.
 - b. Test on day 5.
 - c. Quarantine can end after day 5 if symptoms are not present and a diagnostic specimen collected on day 5 or later tests negative.
 - d. If unable to test or choosing not to test, and symptoms are not present, quarantine can end after day 10.
 - e. Wear a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 10 days from the last day of exposure, especially in indoor settings (see Section below on masking for additional information).
 - f. Strongly encouraged to get vaccinated or boosted.
 - g. If symptoms develop, test and stay home.
 - h. If testing positive, follow isolation recommendations above.
 - i. *In a workplace setting*, asymptomatic employees in this category are not required to stay home from work if:
 - i. A negative diagnostic test is obtained within 3-5 days after last exposure to a case
 - ii. Employee wears a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 10 days
 - iii. Employee continues to have no symptoms.
2. Boosted or Vaccinated, but not yet booster eligible persons who are exposed to Covid-19:
 - a. Are not required to stay home in the absence of symptoms
 - b. Test on day 5.
 - c. Wear a well-fitting mask around others for 10 days, especially in indoor settings. If testing positive, follow recommendations in the County's Isolation Order dated January 8, 2022.
 - d. If symptoms develop, test and stay home.
3. Persons Unable or Unwilling to Test: COVID Exposed Persons who are unable or unwilling to obtain a PCR or antigen test may end quarantine after ten (10) days if they are asymptomatic.
4. K-12 Schools. COVID Exposed Persons that are staff or students of a K-12 school located within the County shall adhere to the quarantine requirements found within the CDPH's

[COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2021-22 School Year](#), as well as any more restrictive requirements outlined in this order.

5. Work Restrictions for asymptomatic Healthcare Personnel who have been exposed to Covid-19:
 - a. *For Boosted or Vaccinated but not booster-eligible personnel:*
 - i. No work restriction with negative diagnostic tests upon identification of exposure and a negative diagnostic test¹ between 5 and 7 days after exposure.
 - ii. In situations where a critical staffing shortage exists, no work restriction applies with negative diagnostic tests upon identification of exposure and negative diagnostic test between 5 and 7 days after exposure.
 - b. *For Unvaccinated or vaccinated, but booster-eligible personnel who have not received a booster dose:*
 - i. 7 days with negative diagnostic test upon identification and negative diagnostic test within 48 hours prior to return to work.
 - ii. In situations where a critical staffing shortage exists, no work restriction applies with a negative diagnostic test upon identification of exposure and a negative diagnostic test between 5 and 7 days after exposure.
6. Travel.
 - a. *Domestic Travel (within the United States (“U.S.”) or U.S. Territory).* Persons returning to the County from domestic travel (“Domestic Travelers”) shall abide by the CDC’s guidance on [Domestic Travel During COVID-19](#).
 - b. *International Travel (outside the U.S.).* Persons returning to the County from international travel (“International Travelers”) shall abide by the CDC’s guidance on [International Travel During COVID-19](#).
7. For the purposes of this Order, in calculating the number of days since an individual was exposed to a COVID Positive Person, the first day shall be the day after the individual was exposed to a COVID Positive Person.
8. If quarantined in a congregate setting, hotel, or multi-unit setting, COVID Exposed Persons shall not enter any other units within that setting.
9. COVID Exposed Persons shall carefully review and closely follow all requirements of the Health Officer, Health Officer representative, or medical provider, including but not limited to all Health Officer Orders.
10. COVID Exposed Persons shall adhere to any and all regulations, orders, or guidelines issued by the Governor, the State Public Health Officer, CDPH, and/or the California Department of Industrial Relations, Division of Occupations Safety and Health (“Cal/OSHA”) concerning


¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/testing.html>

COVID-19, including any regulations, orders, or guidelines issued after the effective date of this Order.

11. COVID Exposed Persons shall keep a minimum distance of six (6) feet between themselves and other individuals at all times whenever possible, 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.
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. 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.
15. This Order shall remain in effect until rescinded.

IT IS SO ORDERED:

Date: January 7, 2022


Stephen Munday (Jan 7, 2022 20:06 PST)

Stephen Munday, M.D., MPH
Health Officer