

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 March 11, 2020. 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 ten (10) 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 12:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 20, 2021, and continuing until rescinded, the following will be in effect for the County of Imperial:

1. Hospital Health Care Professionals (“HCPs”) and Patients.

a. *Non-vaccinated Hospitals HCPs.*

- i. COVID Exposed Persons that are HCPs of a hospital and are asymptomatic may discontinue quarantine after ten (10) days from the date of last exposure to a COVID Positive Person, with or without testing. The COVID Exposed Person shall continue to self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms for fourteen (14) days from the date of last exposure to a COVID Positive Person, shall wear a face covering at all times while away from quarantine, and shall immediately isolate if COVID-19 symptoms develop within the 14-day exposure period.
- ii. If a hospital has made a determination that it is experiencing a critical staffing shortage, and that there are not enough staff available to provide adequate care for patients, then COVID Exposed Persons that are HCPs employed by the hospital may return to work after seven (7) days from the date of last exposure to a COVID Positive Person if they have received a negative COVID-19 PCR test result from a specimen collected at least five (5) days from the date of last exposure to a COVID Positive Person. The COVID Exposed Person shall continue to self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms for fourteen (14) days from the date of last exposure to a COVID Positive Person, shall wear a face covering at all times while away from quarantine, and shall immediately isolate if COVID-19 symptoms develop within the 14-day exposure period.

b. *Vaccinated Hospital HCPs and Patients.* COVID Exposed Persons that are HCPs or Patients of a hospital, and have been fully vaccinated, shall not be required to quarantine, so long as they do not subsequently develop COVID-19 symptoms within the 14-day exposure period. An individual is considered to be fully vaccinated two (2) weeks after receiving the second dose of a two-dose vaccination series; or two (2) weeks after receiving one dose of a single dose vaccination series.

c. *COVID Recovered Hospital HCPs and Patients.* COVID Exposed Persons that are HCPs or Patients of a hospital, have previously tested positive for COVID-19, and have subsequently recovered no longer than three (3) months prior to exposure to a COVID Positive Person, shall not be required to quarantine, so long as they do not subsequently develop COVID-19 symptoms within the 14-day exposure period.

2. Congregate Setting Employees and Residents.

a. *Non-vaccinated Congregate Setting Employees.*

- i. COVID Exposed Persons that are employees of a high-risk congregare living setting (e.g., skilled nursing facility, senior living facility, prison, jail, community shelter) (“Congregate Setting”) shall be required to quarantine for fourteen (14) days from the date of last exposure to a COVID Positive Person.
- ii. If a Congregate Setting has made a determination that it is experiencing a critical staffing shortage, and that there are not enough staff available to provide adequate services to residents, then COVID Exposed Persons employed by the Congregate Setting may return to work after ten (10) days from the date of last exposure to a COVID Positive Person, with or without testing; or seven (7) days from the date of last exposure to a COVID Positive Person if they have received a negative COVID-19 PCR test result from a specimen collected at least five (5) days from the date of last exposure to a COVID Positive Person. The COVID Exposed Person shall continue to self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms for fourteen (14) days from the date of last exposure to a COVID Positive Person, shall wear a face covering at all times while away from quarantine, and shall immediately isolate if COVID-19 symptoms develop within the 14-day exposure period.

b. *Vaccinated Congregate Setting Employees and Residents.* COVID Exposed Persons that are employees or residents of a Congregate Setting, and have been fully vaccinated, shall not be required to quarantine, so long as they do not subsequently develop COVID-19 symptoms within the 14-day exposure period. An individual is considered to be fully vaccinated two (2) weeks after receiving the second dose of a two-dose vaccination series; or two (2) weeks after receiving one dose of a single dose vaccination series. Fully vaccinated COVID Exposed Persons that are employees or residents of a Congregate Setting are recommended to get tested for COVID-19 three (3) to five (5) days after exposure to a COVID Positive Person.

c. *COVID Recovered Congregate Setting Employees and Residents.* COVID Exposed Persons that are employees or residents of a Congregate Setting, have previously tested positive for COVID-19, and have subsequently recovered no longer than three (3) months prior to exposure to a COVID Positive Person, shall not be required to quarantine, so long as they do not subsequently develop COVID-19 symptoms within the 14-day exposure period. COVID recovered COVID Exposed Persons that are employees or residents of a Congregate Setting are recommended to get tested for COVID-19 three (3) to five (5) days after exposure to a COVID Positive Person.

3. 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](#). The following conditions shall apply to Domestic Travelers:

i. Non-Vaccinated Domestic Travelers.

A. Before engaging in domestic travel, non-vaccinated Domestic Travelers should obtain a COVID-19 test one (1) to three (3) before the trip.

B. While engaging in domestic travel, non-vaccinated Domestic Travelers should:

(1) Wear a mask over their noses and mouths. Masks are required on planes, buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation traveling into, within, or out of the U.S., as well as in U.S. transportation hubs such as airports and stations.

(2) Avoid crowds and stay at least six (6) feet (about 2 arm lengths) from anyone who is not traveling with them.

(3) Wash their hands often or use hand sanitizer (with at least sixty percent (60%) alcohol).

C. Domestic Travelers shall quarantine for ten (10) days from the date of return from domestic travel, if they are asymptomatic, and have not been tested for COVID-19 upon their return. Domestic Travelers shall continue to self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms for fourteen (14) days from the date of return, shall wear a face covering at all times while away from quarantine, and shall immediately isolate if COVID-19 symptoms develop within the 14-day monitoring period.

D. Domestic Travelers may discontinue quarantine after seven (7) days from the date of return if they are asymptomatic, and have received a negative COVID-19 test from three (3) to five (5) days after returning from domestic travel. Domestic Travelers shall continue to self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms for fourteen (14) days from the date of return, shall wear a face covering at all times while away from quarantine, and shall immediately isolate if COVID-19 symptoms develop within the 14-day monitoring period.

ii. Vaccinated Domestic Travelers.

A. While engaging in domestic travel, Domestic Travelers that have been fully vaccinated should:

- (1) Wear a mask over their noses and mouths. Masks are required on planes, buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation traveling into, within, or out of the U.S., as well as in U.S. transportation hubs such as airports and stations.
- (2) Avoid crowds and stay at least six (6) feet (about 2 arm lengths) from anyone who is not traveling with them.
- (3) Wash their hands often or use hand sanitizer (with at least sixty percent (60%) alcohol).

B. Domestic Travelers that have been fully vaccinated shall not be required to quarantine upon return from domestic travel, so long as they do not subsequently develop COVID-19 symptoms within fourteen (14) days from the date of return. An individual is considered to be fully vaccinated two (2) weeks after receiving the second dose of a two-dose vaccination series; or two (2) weeks after receiving one dose of a single dose vaccination series.

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](#). The following conditions shall apply to International Travelers:

i. Non-Vaccinated International Travelers.

A. It is highly recommended that International Travelers delay all international travel until they have been fully vaccinated.

B. Before engaging in international travel, non-vaccinated International Travelers should:

- (1) Obtain a COVID-19 test one (1) to three (3) before the trip.
- (2) Make sure that they understand and follow all airline and destination requirements related to travel, testing, or quarantine, which may differ from federal, State, or local requirements. If International Travelers do not follow their

destination's requirements, they may be denied entry and be required to return to the U.S.

- (3) Check the COVID-19 situation in their intended destination.
- C. While engaging in international travel, non-vaccinated International Travelers should:
- (1) Wear a mask over their noses and mouths. Masks are required on planes, buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation traveling into, within, or out of the U.S., as well as in U.S. transportation hubs such as airports and stations.
 - (2) Avoid crowds and stay at least six (6) feet (about 2 arm lengths) from anyone who is not traveling with them.
 - (3) Wash their hands often or use hand sanitizer (with at least sixty percent (60%) alcohol).
- D. Before returning to the U.S., non-vaccinated International Travelers must obtain a negative COVID-19 test no more than three (3) days before travel, or provide documentation of recovery from COVID-19 in the past three (3) months.
- E. International Travelers shall quarantine for (10) days from the date of return from international travel, if they are asymptomatic, and have not been tested for COVID-19 upon their return. International Travelers shall continue to self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms for fourteen (14) days from the date of return, shall wear a face covering at all times while away from quarantine, and shall immediately isolate if COVID-19 symptoms develop within the 14-day monitoring period.
- F. International Travelers may discontinue quarantine after seven (7) days from the date of return if they are asymptomatic, and have received a negative COVID-19 test from three (3) to five (5) days after returning from international travel. International Travelers shall continue to self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms for fourteen (14) days from the date of return, shall wear a face covering at all times while away from quarantine, and shall immediately isolate if COVID-19 symptoms develop within the 14-day monitoring period
- ii. Vaccinated International Travelers.
- A. Before engaging in international travel, International Travelers that have been fully vaccinated should:

(1) Make sure that they understand and follow all airline and destination requirements related to travel, testing, or quarantine, which may differ from federal, State, or local requirements. If International Travelers do not follow their destination's requirements, they may be denied entry and be required to return to the U.S.

(2) Check the COVID-19 situation in their intended destination.

B. While engaging in international travel, non-vaccinated International Travelers should:

(1) Wear a mask over their noses and mouths. Masks are required on planes, buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation traveling into, within, or out of the U.S., as well as in U.S. transportation hubs such as airports and stations.

(2) Avoid crowds and stay at least six (6) feet (about 2 arm lengths) from anyone who is not traveling with them.

(3) Wash their hands often or use hand sanitizer (with at least sixty percent (60%) alcohol).

C. Before returning to the U.S., International Travelers that have been fully vaccinated must obtain a negative COVID-19 test no more than three (3) days before travel, or provide documentation of recovery from COVID-19 in the past three (3) months.

D. It is highly recommended that International Travelers obtain a COVID-19 test from three (3) to five (5) days after returning from international travel, regardless of immunization status.

E. International Travelers that have been fully vaccinated shall not be required to quarantine upon return from international travel, so long as they do not subsequently develop COVID-19 symptoms within fourteen (14) days from the date of return. An individual is considered to be fully vaccinated two (2) weeks after receiving the second dose of a two-dose vaccination series; or two (2) weeks after receiving one dose of a single dose vaccination series.

4. General Public.

a. *Non-Vaccinated General Public.* COVID Exposed Persons that are members of the general public and are asymptomatic may discontinue quarantine after ten (10)

days from the date of last exposure to a COVID Positive Person, with or without testing. The COVID Exposed Person shall continue to self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms for fourteen (14) days from the date of last exposure to a COVID Positive Person, shall wear a face covering at all times while away from quarantine, and shall immediately isolate if COVID-19 symptoms develop within the 14-day exposure period.

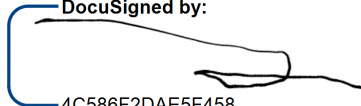
- b. *Vaccinated General Public.* COVID Exposed Persons that are members of the general public, and have been fully vaccinated, shall not be required to quarantine, so long as they do not subsequently develop COVID-19 symptoms within the 14-day exposure period. An individual is considered to be fully vaccinated two (2) weeks after receiving the second dose of a two-dose vaccination series; or two (2) weeks after receiving one dose of a single dose vaccination series.
 - c. *COVID Recovered General Public.* COVID Exposed Persons that are members of the general public, have previously tested positive for COVID-19, and have subsequently recovered no longer than three (3) months prior to exposure to a COVID Positive Person shall not be required to quarantine, so long as they do not subsequently develop COVID-19 symptoms within the 14-day exposure period.
5. If quarantined in a congregate setting, hotel, or multi-unit setting, COVID Exposed Persons shall not enter any other units within that setting.
 6. COVID Exposed Persons shall carefully review and closely follow all requirements of the Health Officer, Health Officer representative, or medical provider.
 7. 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.
 8. Employers located or doing business in the County shall adhere to all regulations and policies promulgated by California Department of Industrial Relations, Division of Occupational Safety and Health (“Cal/OSHA”). In the event of a conflict between this Order and any Cal/OSHA regulation or policy, the requirements of the Cal/OSHA policy or regulation shall prevail over the requirements of this Order.
 9. 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.
 10. 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.

11. 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.

12. This Order shall remain in effect until rescinded.

IT IS SO ORDERED:

Date: May 19, 2021

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Stephen Munday, M.D., MPH
Health Officer