

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 May 19, 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 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, September 23, 2021, and continuing until rescinded, the following will be in effect for the County of Imperial:

1. Vaccinated Persons. COVID Exposed Persons that have been fully vaccinated and are asymptomatic shall not be required to quarantine, so long as they do not subsequently develop COVID-19 symptoms within fourteen (14) days from the date of last exposure to a COVID Positive Person. During the 14-day exposure period, COVID Exposed Persons shall continue to self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms and shall immediately isolate if COVID-19 symptoms develop 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.
2. Unvaccinated Persons. COVID Exposed Persons that are unvaccinated and asymptomatic, but have not taken a COVID test, may discontinue quarantine after ten (10) days from the date of last exposure to a COVID Positive Person. COVID Exposed Persons may discontinue quarantine after (7) days from the date of last exposure to a COVID Positive Person if they are asymptomatic, and 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. COVID Exposed Persons shall continue to self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms for fourteen (14) days from the date of last exposure to a COVID Positive Person, and shall immediately isolate if COVID-19 symptoms develop within the 14-day exposure period.
3. 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](#).
4. 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](#).
5. 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.

6. If quarantined in a congregate setting, hotel, or multi-unit setting, COVID Exposed Persons shall not enter any other units within that setting.
7. 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.
8. 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 COVID-19, including any regulations, orders, or guidelines issued after the effective date of this Order.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. This Order shall remain in effect until rescinded.

**IT IS SO ORDERED:**

Date: September 22, 2021

  
Stephen Munday (Sep 23, 2021 07:52 PDT)

Stephen Munday, M.D., MPH  
Health Officer