



# Madison County HR

Shaping the future together

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## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Elected Officials and Department Heads  
**From:** Madison County HR  
**Re:** Statement from the CDC  
Updates for COVID-19 Isolation and Quarantine Period  
**Date:** December 28, 2021

As of December 27, 2021, the CDC is shortening the recommended time for isolation from 10 days for people with COVID-19 to 5 days, if asymptomatic, followed by 5 days of wearing a mask when around others. The change is motivated by science demonstrating that the majority of SARS-CoV-2 transmission occurs early in the course of illness, generally in the 1-2 days prior to onset of symptoms and the 2-3 days after. Therefore, people who test positive should isolate for 5 days and, if asymptomatic at that time, they may leave isolation if they can continue to mask for 5 days to minimize the risk of infecting others.

Additionally, CDC is updating the recommended quarantine period for those exposed to COVID-19. For people who are unvaccinated or are more than six months out from their second mRNA dose (or more than 2 months after the J&J vaccine) and not yet boosted, CDC now recommends quarantine for 5 days followed by strict mask use for an additional 5 days. Individuals who have received their booster shot do not need to quarantine following an exposure, but should wear a mask for 10 days after the exposure. For all those exposed, best practice would also include a test for SARS-CoV-2 at day 5 after exposure. If symptoms occur, individuals should immediately quarantine until a negative test confirms symptoms are not attributable to COVID-19.

Isolation relates to behavior after a confirmed infection. Isolation for 5 days followed by wearing a well-fitting mask will minimize the risk of spreading the virus to others. Quarantine refers to the time following exposure to the virus or close contact with someone known to have COVID-19. Both updates come as the Omicron variant continues to spread throughout the U.S. and reflects the current science on when and for how long a person is maximally infectious.

## If You Test Positive for COVID-19 (Isolate)

Everyone, regardless of vaccination status.

- Stay home for 5 days.
- If you have no symptoms or your symptoms are resolving after 5 days, you can leave your house.
- Continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.  
*If you have a fever, continue to stay home until your fever resolves.*

## If You Were Exposed to Someone with COVID-19 (Quarantine)

### **If you:**

Have been boosted

**OR**

Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 6 months

**OR**

Completed the primary series of J&J vaccine within the last 2 months

- Wear a mask around others for 10 days.
- \*Test on day 5, if possible.

*If you develop symptoms get a test\* and stay home.*

\*CDC recommendation

### **If you:**

Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine over 6 months ago and are not boosted

**OR**

Completed the primary series of J&J over 2 months ago and are not boosted

**OR**

Are unvaccinated

- Stay home for 5 days. After that continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.
- If you can't quarantine you must wear a mask for 10 days.
- \*Test on day 5, if possible.

*If you develop symptoms get a test\* and stay home*

\*CDC recommendation

Should you have questions or concerns regarding this matter, please contact Madison County HR at (256) 532-3616 or HR@madisoncountyal.gov.