



Interim Guidance on Quarantine for COVID-19 Vaccinated Individuals

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This guidance was developed by the San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) for local use. It will be posted at www.sfcdcp.org/i&q and can be found directly at www.sfcdcp.org/quarantineaftervaccination.

AUDIENCE: People who have received a complete vaccination course (one or two shots, depending on the type of vaccine) and who have been in Close Contact with a known COVID-19 case. See www.sfcdcp.org/screening-handout for a definition of Close Contact.

For more information on how to isolate or quarantine, see www.sfcdcp.org/i&q

Some vaccinated people do not need to quarantine after Close Contact

Many people who have been vaccinated for COVID-19 do not have to quarantine after close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19.

If all of the following are true, you do not need to quarantine after exposure to a COVID-19 case:

- (1) You were fully vaccinated for COVID-19 at least two weeks before the exposure, AND
(2) Your last COVID-19 vaccine was within the last 3 months, AND
(3) You have no COVID-19 symptoms since the exposure (see www.sfcdcp.org/covid19symptoms), AND
(4) You are not healthcare personnel, a hospitalized patient, or a resident in a healthcare setting. If you are, see more below.

If you meet all of the above, you may continue daily activities, including going to work or school.

If you do not meet BOTH criteria (1) AND (2) above, under San Francisco Health Directive 2020-02, you must follow current quarantine guidance after exposure to someone with COVID-19 with some exceptions noted in the Directive. Quarantine guidance is found at www.sfcdcp.org/i&q.

If you develop symptoms (criteria 3 above), you must isolate and see below.

If you are healthcare personnel, a hospitalized patient, or a resident in a healthcare setting (criteria 4 above), see more below.

If you have symptoms after Close Contact

Even if you have been fully vaccinated, monitor yourself for symptoms for 14 days after you had Close Contact and if you develop any symptoms, get tested for COVID-19 and isolate at home while waiting for the result. If you receive a positive test, you must isolate for at least 10 days (see more details of what to do and how to isolate when you have symptoms at https://www.sfcdcp.org/i&q). If you receive a negative test, consult with a healthcare provider who may still advise you isolate since people can test negative early in infection.



If you are healthcare personnel

If you are healthcare personnel: According to the CDC, when there are no staffing shortages, asymptomatic, fully vaccinated healthcare personnel within 2 weeks and 3 months of finishing their vaccine series should be restricted from work after Close Contact, but are not required to quarantine outside of work.

Close Contact includes exposures in the community and higher-risk exposures in healthcare defined at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assesment-hcp.html>.

The duration of work restriction (whether 10 or 14 days) depends on the healthcare setting. See www.sfgdcp.org/quarantineduration to learn more.

If there are staffing shortages, consult with your employer.

Considerations for healthcare facilities:

The San Francisco Department of Public Health acknowledges that the risk of transmission from asymptomatic, vaccinated, exposed healthcare personnel to patients is likely low given emerging data on the effectiveness of vaccines in reducing transmission as well as the environmental controls within healthcare (e.g., ventilation, healthcare personnel adherence to masking, etc.). Thus, healthcare facilities within San Francisco may choose to implement institutional policies that allow for asymptomatic, vaccinated healthcare personnel who are close contacts to remain at work even when there are no staffing shortages. If exposed healthcare personnel continue to work, they should be tested for COVID-19 on or after day 5 of exposure. Such deviations from the CDC that allow for asymptomatic, vaccinated healthcare personnel to continue to work after close contact when there are no staffing shortages should not be implemented in higher risk patient populations such as in long term care facilities and for staff working with immunocompromised patients. Health systems may also want to take into account the risk level of the exposure, with household contacts and intimate partners having a higher risk of transmission to the close contact than other types of community exposure (see more at www.sfgdcp.org/closecontact).

If you are hospitalized or a resident in a healthcare setting

If you are hospitalized or a resident in a healthcare setting, you should still quarantine. Although not preferred, healthcare facilities may consider waiving quarantine for vaccinated patients and residents as a strategy to mitigate critical issues (e.g., lack of space, staff, or PPE to safely care for exposed patients or residents) when other options are unsuccessful or unavailable. These decisions may be made in consultation with public health officials and infection control experts. Please see <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/clinical-considerations.html#vaccinated-personnel>

Resources

- [SFDPH Communicable Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19 information](#)
- How to get tested for COVID-19 in San Francisco <https://sf.gov/citytestsf>
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Information at sf.gov/covidvax](https://sf.gov/covidvax).
- CDC Information for Healthcare Personnel returning to work: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assesment-hcp.html>