2019 Coronavirus (COVID-19) Frequently Asked Questions*
*Information is current as of 1/6/2022 and is subject to change

Please note: Text in this color denotes information updated in the last version of this document

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Situation in Maine

What happens when a case of COVID-19 is identified in Maine? (12/29/2021)

• When Maine CDC is notified of a positive result, a case investigator may reach out to the patient to investigate. The investigator asks basic questions about symptoms and when they started and possible exposures.

• Close contacts of the positive person may be identified and contacted.
  o Close contacts who are not healthcare workers should follow this guidance to find out if they need to quarantine and when they can leave.
  o Close contacts who are healthcare workers should contact their employer to determine what their quarantine requirements are.

What about people from out of state who test positive? Where are their results reported? (3/31/2020)

• Out-of-state travelers who test positive in Maine are reported to the state of their primary residence. This is to ensure an accurate national tally of COVID-19 cases under guidance from US CDC.

• Patients may continue to receive treatment in the state where they are tested.

I would like to volunteer to help with the COVID-19 response (including contact tracing and vaccine distribution). How can I do this? (3/4/2021)

• Please visit www.maineresponds.org to register as a volunteer to provide services during a disaster or emergency situation.

• Please see Maine CDC’s COVID-19 response positions and see jobs postings page.
Where can I find information on COVID-19 vaccination in Maine? (12/10/2021)
- Please visit Governor Mills’ COVID-19 Vaccine page for more information on COVID-19 vaccination in Maine.
- Call the Community Vaccination Line for help finding a COVID vaccine near you at 1-888-445-4111.
- Call 1-855-608-5172 if you need help getting a ride to your vaccine appointment. Reserve your ride at least 48 hours in advance of your appointment.
- Find a COVID-19 vaccine site here and here.

I am fully vaccinated but lost my vaccine card. How can I get a replacement? (12/10/2021)
- First, you should contact the location where you received your vaccine to find out if they can issue a replacement card.
- If the vaccination site cannot do this or no longer exists, contact the Maine Immunization Program. Maine Immunization Program does not issue replacement COVID-19 vaccination cards but can provide a copy of your immunization record.
  - Fill out this Vaccination Record Request Form.
  - If you do not have access to the internet, call 1-800-821-5821 and follow the prompts for the Maine Immunization Program.

Where can I find updated K-12 school guidance for Maine? (8/12/2021)
- Find the most updated DOE “Standard Operating Procedures for Responding to a Positive COVID-19 Case in Schools” document here.
- Find Maine DOE’s COVID-19 toolkit here.
- For questions about masking requirements in individual schools, please contact administration at the school in question.

Where can I find information on the vaccination requirement for healthcare workers in Maine? (9/17/2021)
- Please visit the Governor’s FAQ page for complete information on the Healthcare Worker Vaccination Rule.
- Find information on Emergency Rule “Immunization Requirements for Healthcare Workers” here.
- See your healthcare provider for more information on medical exemptions. Read more about the Maine Vaccine Exemption Law Change here.

Which healthcare providers in Maine are required to be vaccinated under the emergency vaccination rule? (8/19/2021)
- Visit the Governor’s FAQ page for complete information.

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About COVID-19
What are the signs/symptoms of COVID-19 and when do they appear? (12/16/2020)
- Signs and symptoms include:
  - Fever or chills.
  - Cough.
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing.
  - Fatigue.
  - Muscle or body aches.
  - Headache.
- New loss of taste or smell.
- Sore throat.
- Congestion or runny nose.
- Nausea or vomiting.
- Diarrhea.

- Seek medical attention immediately if you experience any of these emergency warning signs for COVID-19:
  - Trouble breathing.
  - Persistent pain or pressure in the chest.
  - New confusion.
  - Inability to wake or stay awake.
  - Bluish lips, face, or unpigmented skin (gums, around the eyes, nail beds).

- Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus.

**Can a person spread the COVID-19 virus even if they have no symptoms? (9/17/2021)**
- It is possible that people infected with COVID-19 may be infectious before showing symptoms. They can also be infectious and not show any symptoms (asymptomatic spread).

**Can someone who has recovered from COVID-19 spread the illness to others?**
- Someone who is actively sick with COVID-19 can spread the illness to others.
- Once a person with COVID-19 has been released from isolation and is no longer showing symptoms without the aid of medication (fever-reducers, cough suppressants), they are no longer considered able to spread the COVID-19 virus.
- Individuals who had COVID-19 can get it again and become infectious again.

**How long can someone test positive for COVID-19 after being released from isolation? (11/3/2021)**
- People who have been released from COVID-19 isolation may continue to test positive for COVID-19 on molecular and antigen tests for up to 90 days after symptom onset but are not considered infectious.
  - This means that viral RNA is detected by the molecular or PCR tests, but the virus is no longer active, so the person is not infectious.
- Maine CDC does not recommend requiring a negative test for a person who has been released from COVID-19 isolation to return to work, school, or other community functions.

**What is the medical treatment for people affected by COVID-19? (10/23/2020)**
- The National Institutes of Health developed guidance on treatment.

**Can the COVID-19 virus be spread from contaminated surfaces? (12/10/2020)**
- The COVID-19 virus can be acquired from contaminated surfaces, but this is not the primary way the virus spreads.
  - This happens when an infected person coughs or sneezes and droplets land on surfaces. A person can become infected by touching the contaminated surface and then touching the eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Most often, spread of the virus happens among close contacts through respiratory droplets. Practice general prevention measures.

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**COVID-19 Variants**

Where can I find information about COVID-19 variants in the United States and Maine? (12/1/2021)
- Find information on COVID-19 variants found in Maine here.
- Find information on COVID-19 variants in the United States here.
How is the Omicron variant different from other COVID-19 variants? (12/1/2021)
- The Omicron variant has a "large number of mutations, some of which are concerning" according to the World Health Organization.
- The Omicron variant has many mutations of the spike protein. This is the part of the virus that allows it to enter human cells and reproduce.

Is the Omicron variant more transmissible than other COVID-19 variants? (12/1/2021)
- Early clinical information suggests that Omicron may be more transmissible than other variants.
- However, it does not seem to pose a higher risk of death or hospitalization for fully vaccinated individuals.

Does the Omicron variant lead to more severe illness than other COVID-19 variants? (12/1/2021)
- Early clinical information suggests that the Omicron variant does not pose a higher risk of death or hospitalization for fully vaccinated individuals.
- Just like other COVID-19 variants, unvaccinated individuals are at higher risk of death or hospitalization.

Will the current COVID-19 vaccine protect against the Omicron variant? (12/1/2021)
- Public health researchers and vaccine manufacturers are working aggressively to answer this question.
- Very early studies indicate that the new variant may be more transmissible, but that fully vaccinated individuals would be less likely than unvaccinated individuals to experience severe symptoms if they contract the Omicron variant.

Will current COVID-19 treatments work on the Omicron variant? (12/1/2021)
- There is some concern that monoclonal antibody treatment may be less effective against the Omicron variant, but more data are needed to understand this completely.
- It is still too early to know about potential new therapies, like the Merck oral antiviral therapy.

Can the tests we have for COVID-19 detect the Omicron variant? (12/1/2021)
- Yes, both common antigen tests, like the BinaxNOW test, and molecular tests can identify cases of COVID-19 caused by the Omicron variant. Those tests will not tell you if you have the Omicron variant, but they will tell you if you have COVID-19.

Has the Omicron variant been found in Maine? (12/20/2021)
- Maine CDC announced on December 17, 2021 that the first cases of the Omicron variant were identified in Maine.
- The Maine Health and Environmental Testing Lab and Jackson Laboratory both perform COVID-19 genomic sequencing in Maine. This includes the Omicron variant. You can find the most updated report of genomic testing here.

Will there be a vaccine for the Omicron variant? (12/1/2021)
- Public health researchers and vaccine manufacturers are working to determine how well current vaccines protect against the new variant.
- That science will take time, so the best thing that you can do to protect yourself and loved ones from any new potential risk posed by the Omicron variant is to get vaccinated and to get boosters when appropriate.

What steps can I take to keep myself and my family members safe from the Omicron variant during holiday gatherings, travel, and at other times? (12/1/2021)
- The recommended precautions have not changed.
- The best thing you can do to protect yourself and your loved ones is to get vaccinated. If it has been six months since your final dose of Pfizer or Moderna – or two months since your dose of Johnson & Johnson – get a booster.
- Wear face coverings in public indoor places. When possible, open windows to promote air flow. Gather outdoors when possible. Stay home and avoid others if you feel sick.

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Prevention

How does wearing a face covering prevent the spread of COVID-19? (7/28/2021)
- COVID-19 most commonly spreads between people through respiratory droplets or small particles like aerosols, produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, sings, talks, or breathes.
- Because it helps contain respiratory droplets, wearing a face covering has been proven to be one of the most significant, effective, and easiest ways to reduce the spread of COVID-19.
- US CDC recommends that fully vaccinated people wear a face covering in public indoor settings in areas of substantial or high transmission.

Do I need to wear a face covering indoors? (1/6/2022)
- Individuals who are close contacts of a person with COVID-19 or have tested positive for COVID-19 should wear a face covering when around other people for 10 days.
- US CDC recommends that fully vaccinated people wear a face covering in public indoor settings in areas of substantial or high transmission. US CDC guidance recommends that unvaccinated people age 5 and older wear face coverings while in indoor public settings.
- US CDC requires that people wear face coverings in all forms of public transportation, such as planes, buses, and trains. US CDC specifically recommends that people wear face coverings in healthcare settings and in congregate living settings like jails and shelters.

What does it mean to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19? (6/30/2021)
- You are considered fully vaccinated after at least 14 days following the completion of your COVID-19 vaccination series.
- For individuals who receive the two-shot Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, this starts after the second dose. For individuals receiving the single-shot Johnson and Johnson vaccine, this starts after the single dose.

I am not fully vaccinated. Do I need to wear a face covering? (12/29/2021)
- Individuals who are close contacts of a person with COVID-19 or have tested positive for COVID-19 should wear a face covering when around other people for 10 days, regardless of vaccination status.
- US CDC guidance recommends that people age 5 and older wear face coverings while in indoor public settings until they are fully vaccinated.
- Aside from vaccination, wearing a face covering remains one of the most effective ways of protecting yourself and your family against the virus that causes COVID-19.

I am fully vaccinated. Do I need to wear a face covering? (12/29/2021)
- Individuals who are close contacts of a person with COVID-19 or have tested positive for COVID-19 should wear a face covering when around other people for 10 days, regardless of vaccination status.
- US CDC recommends that fully vaccinated people wear a face covering in public indoor settings in areas of substantial or high transmission.

When can I get a COVID-19 booster shot? (1/6/2022)
- Please visit US CDC’s “Stay Up To Date With Your Vaccines” to find out if and when a COVID-19 booster is right for you or your child. This is based on your age, the type of vaccine you received for your primary COVID-19 vaccination series, and how long it has been since your last COVID-19 vaccine.
- If you are immunocompromised, an additional COVID vaccine dose may be recommended for you. Talk to a healthcare provider to find out if this is right for you.
• Booster vaccines are widely available across the state at doctor’s offices, pharmacies, and hospital clinics. Find a vaccination site [here](#) or call 1-888-445-4111.

**Where can I get my child vaccinated? (1/6/2022)**

• The US CDC recommends that children 5 to 11 years old be vaccinated against COVID-19 with the Pfizer-BioNTech pediatric vaccine.
• At this time, only the Pfizer-BioNTech pediatric vaccine is recommended for children 5 to 11 years of age.
• At this time, all children ages 5 to 17 years may receive a COVID-19 booster vaccine. Visit [this page](#) to find out when your child may receive a COVID-19 vaccine.
• Contact your child’s healthcare provider or your local pharmacy to ask about availability of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for your child. You can also find vaccine sites in Maine offering the pediatric vaccine [here](#).
• You can find more answers about the pediatric COVID-19 vaccine [here](#).

**Can businesses, schools, or organizations require face coverings? (7/28/2021)**

• Yes. Businesses and other organizations may adopt policies for their employees or clients that require wearing a face covering, require vaccination, or require proof of vaccination to avoid wearing a face covering.
• US CDC recommends universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to schools, regardless of vaccination status.

**Can businesses, schools, or organizations require employees or visitors to be vaccinated against COVID-19? (9/17/2021)**

• Yes, businesses and other organizations may adopt policies for their employees or clients that require vaccination, require wearing a face covering, or require proof of vaccination to avoid wearing a face covering.

**Where can I report a business that is not enforcing COVID-19 prevention recommendations? (12/10/2021)**

• If you have a complaint about how a business is handling COVID-19 prevention recommendations, first contact the management of the business to discuss your concerns.
• If you believe the [situation poses a public health risk](#), contact your [local health officer](#).

**Where can I find US CDC’s county COVID-19 data? (7/28/2021)**

• Find US CDC’s COVID-19 data tracker [here](#).
• As of July 27, 2021, US CDC recommends that [fully vaccinated people](#) wear a face covering in public indoor settings in areas of [substantial or high transmission](#). Fully vaccinated individuals may choose to wear a face covering regardless of level of transmission, especially if they are immunocompromised or at increased risk of severe disease or live with someone who is in this category.

**Are there any cleaning recommendations to prevent COVID-19? (7/7/2020)**

• Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces (tables, countertops, light switches, doorknobs, cabinet handles, etc.) daily using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
• Find cleaning recommendations for households with suspected/confirmed COVID-19 cases [here](#).

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Testing

Where can I find a COVID-19 test in Maine? (9/17/2021)

- Visit www.maine.gov/covid19/testing to find a list of testing sites in Maine.
  - This is not an all-inclusive list. Other healthcare facilities in Maine may offer testing. Maine CDC recommends that you call ahead to learn about test availability before visiting one of these sites.
- Maine CDC cannot guarantee test type or appointment availability at these sites. Please call ahead to ask questions about appointment availability, test type, and timing of results.
- For more information see “Where can I get tested for COVID-19 in Maine?”

Will I be charged for a COVID-19 test? (9/17/2021)

- For sites funded by the State of Maine (Swab and Send sites or Walgreens stores offering antigen tests):
  - Will not charge the patient or bill insurance. They may still collect insurance information if available.
  - Find these sites here.
- Commercial pharmacy locations offering PCR tests (like Walgreens and CVS):
  - Will bill insurance for those who are insured.
  - Will submit for reimbursement to Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for those that are uninsured.
  - Individuals should not be billed directly for PCR testing.
- Independent healthcare providers, walk-in clinics, or hospitals:
  - May charge or bill insurance for COVID-19 testing. Those without insurance may be responsible for any charges.
  - Ask about cost when making an appointment or upon arrival for testing.

Do I need a doctor's order to get a COVID-19 test? (9/17/2021)

- Individuals do not need a doctor's order to be tested at a Swab and Send site or commercial pharmacy supported by the State of Maine (find those sites here).
- Other types of testing sites may require a doctor's order or for the individual to be symptomatic in order to test.
- Due to high testing demand, some sites may not provide testing for travel clearance.
- Call the testing site prior to scheduling or arrival for testing to find out if an order is needed.

I was tested for COVID-19. How long will my results take? How can I find results? (3/24/20)

- Contact the healthcare provider that tested you for a timeframe and for results.
- Maine CDC does not provide test results to individuals.

What should I know about at-home COVID-19 testing? (1/6/2022)

- Find updated guidance for at-home, self-collected tests for COVID-19 here.

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Quarantine (for close contacts of a person with COVID-19)

What is a close contact? (9/17/2021)

- A close contact includes:
  - Being within 6 feet of an infected person for a total of 15 cumulative minutes or more over 24 hours
  - Providing care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19
  - Direct physical contact with an infectious person (ex: hugging/kissing)
  - Sharing eating or drinking utensils
  - Being exposed to respiratory droplets from an infectious person (ex: sneezing/coughing)
What is the difference between isolation and quarantine? (9/17/2021)

- Quarantine means that you need to separate yourself from others because you may have been exposed to the COVID-19 virus but are not currently symptomatic.
- Isolation means that you need to separate yourself from others because you may be infected with the COVID-19 virus. Isolate if you test positive for COVID-19 or are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19.

How do I know if I need to quarantine? (1/6/2022)

- You need to quarantine if you are a close contact of someone with COVID-19 if:
  - You are age 18 or older and completed your primary series of the COVID-19 vaccine, but have not received your recommended COVID-19 booster dose when you became eligible.
    - For example, it has been more than 2 months since your J&J vaccine, more than 5 months since your last Pfizer vaccine, or more than 6 months since your last Moderna vaccine.
  - You are unvaccinated or have not completed your primary series of the COVID-19 vaccine.
  - You can use this flow chart to help decide if you need to quarantine.
- The person with COVID-19 should reach out to you to let you know about your exposure. If the exposure happened at work, your employer may also reach out to you to notify you of your exposure.
- You may also receive a call or text from Maine CDC’s contact tracing team to notify you of your exposure.

Do I need to quarantine? (not a healthcare worker) (1/6/2022)

- This guidance is for people who are not healthcare workers.
- You need to quarantine if you are a close contact of someone with COVID-19 if:
  - You are age 18 or older and completed your primary series of the COVID-19 vaccine, but have not received your recommended COVID-19 booster dose when you became eligible.
    - For example, it has been more than 2 months since your J&J vaccine, more than 5 months since your last Pfizer vaccine, or more than 6 months since your last Moderna vaccine.
  - You are unvaccinated or have not completed your primary series of the COVID-19 vaccine.
  - You can use this flow chart to help decide if you need to quarantine.
- You do not need to quarantine if you are a close contact of someone with COVID-19 if:
  - You are age 18 or older and have received all recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses, including your primary series, boosters, and any additional primary doses (for some immunocompromised people).
  - You are age 5-17 years and completed the primary series of COVID-19 vaccines (individuals in this age range MAY also receive a booster but this does not affect quarantine).
  - You tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days.

Do I need to quarantine? (Healthcare worker) (1/6/2022)

- This guidance is for people who are healthcare workers.
- As a healthcare worker, you may or may not be required to quarantine from work after a COVID-19 exposure. This depends on your vaccination and booster status, the type of your exposure, and the staffing situation at your workplace.
  - Work with your employer or workplace contact (occupational health, etc.) to determine their requirements for quarantine based on this guidance.
- Generally, healthcare workers who have been exposed to COVID-19 and are asymptomatic do not need to quarantine as long as they are fully vaccinated and have received all CDC-recommended boosters. Check with you employer to understand their requirements.
- If you have to quarantine, you should:
  - Stay home. You cannot go out in public (for example to work, the grocery store, banks, gas stations, beaches, or parks).
▪ You can leave quarantine for emergency or necessary medical care. If you are symptomatic, please call ahead.
▪ You may leave your house for outdoor exercise activities, such as swimming or hiking, provided that you abide by physical distancing guidelines and avoid contact with other people.
  o Avoid contact with people in your household as much as possible.
  ▪ Your household members can continue to leave the house if they are not also in quarantine.
  o Wear a well-fitting face covering when around other people at home as much as possible.
▪ Work with your employer or workplace contact (occupational health, etc.) to determine when and how frequently you should get tested, based on this guidance.
▪ If the employee develops symptoms of COVID-19, they should contact their employer immediately.

**When do children need to quarantine? (1/6/2022)**

▪ For children who are fully vaccinated and **may** receive a booster dose (5-17 year olds):
  o You do not need to quarantine after a COVID-19 exposure.
  o You should wear a face covering anytime you are around other people for 10 days.
  o You should take a COVID-19 test on day 5 after your last exposure.
  o If you develop symptoms, get a COVID-19 test, and isolate at home.
▪ For children 17 years of age and younger who are unvaccinated or only partially vaccinated:
  o You need to quarantine. Stay home for 5 days.
    ▪ You can leave quarantine for emergency or necessary medical care. If you are symptomatic, please call ahead.
    ▪ You may leave your house for outdoor exercise activities, such as swimming or hiking, provided that you abide by physical distancing guidelines and avoid contact with other people.
    ▪ Your household members can continue to leave the house if they are not also in quarantine.
    o Wear a well-fitting face covering when around others at home as much as possible.
  o After 5 days, you can leave your home, but should continue to wear a well-fitting face covering around other people for an additional 5 days.
  o You should take a COVID-19 test on day 5 after your last exposure.

**If I already had COVID-19 do I need to quarantine if I am a close contact? (1/6/2022)**

▪ If you had a positive molecular COVID-19 (PCR, NAAT, or isothermal) or antigen test, you do not need to quarantine if you are a close contact of a COVID-19 positive case within **90 days (3 months) after your first positive test, as long as you remain asymptomatic**.
  o After this 90-day period from your first positive test, you will need to quarantine if you become a close contact of a COVID-19 positive case.
  o This 90-day exemption includes positive at-home, self-collected tests results.
▪ An individual who believes they had a previous COVID-19 infection but did not have a positive COVID-19 molecular or antigen test must still quarantine after an exposure.

**How do I quarantine? (Not a healthcare worker) (1/6/2022)**

▪ Stay home and away from other people for at least 5 days (day 0 through the end of day 5) after your last contact with a person who has COVID-19.
  o The date of your last exposure to the person with COVID-19 is considered day 0.
  o Wear a well-fitting face covering when you are around others at home as much as possible.
▪ For 10 days after your last exposure to the person with COVID-19, watch for fever, cough, shortness of breath, and other COVID-19 symptoms.
▪ If you develop COVID-19 symptoms at any time, isolate and get a COVID-19 test as soon as possible. If you test possible, follow isolation recommendations. If you test negative, you can leave isolation and finish your quarantine period.
▪ If you do not develop COVID-19 symptoms, get a test at least 5 days after your last exposure to the person with COVID-19.
If you test negative, you can leave quarantine, but continue to wear a well-fitting face covering around other people until 10 days after your last exposure to the person with COVID-19.

If you test positive but do not have symptoms, isolate for at least 5 days until you meet the criteria to be released from isolation.

If you test positive and have COVID-19 symptoms, isolate until you meet the criteria to be released from isolation.

If you are unable to get a test you can leave your quarantine after day 5 as long as you do not develop symptoms. Wear a well-fitting face covering until 10 days have passed since your last exposure to the person with COVID-19.

- If you are unable to wear a face covering when around others, you should continue to quarantine at home for the full 10 days.
- For the whole 10 days after your last exposure, stay away from other people (including the people you live with), especially people who are at higher risk of getting very sick from COVID-19.
  - Especially avoid people who are immunocompromised, at high risk for severe disease, and nursing homes and other high-risk settings.
- Do not travel during your 5-day quarantine period.
  - Get tested at day 5 and make sure your test result is negative and you remain symptom-free before traveling.
  - If you do not get tested, delay traveling until 10 days after your last close contact. If you must travel before 10 days is complete, wear a well-fitting face covering for the entire duration of travel when around others. If you cannot wear a face covering, do not travel during this 10-day period.
- During the 10 days after your last close contact, do not go to places where you are unable to wear a mask, such as restaurants and avoid eating around others at home and at work until after day 10.

Will Maine CDC contact me if I am a close contact? (9/17/2021)

- Due to an increase in case volume, Maine CDC has focused its efforts to follow up with COVID-19 cases on a smaller range of ages or those who meet certain criteria. Depending on available resources and case levels, Maine CDC may follow up with other cases who do not meet these criteria.
- As a result, Maine CDC may not contact you to let you know of your exposure. This depends on if the COVID-positive person was investigated by Maine CDC and if they named you as a close contact.
- If a person with COVID-19, your employer, or your child’s school notifies you of a COVID exposure, please follow the quarantine instructions regardless of whether you hear from Maine CDC.

When can I leave quarantine? (12/29/2021)

- If you are not a healthcare worker, you can leave quarantine when you meet the release from quarantine criteria.
- If you are a healthcare worker, work with your employer or workplace contact (occupational health, etc.) to determine when you can return to work using this guidance.

What should I do if I had contact with someone who is a close contact of someone with COVID-19? (11/20/2020)

- If you are a contact of someone who is a close contact of a COVID-19 case, you do not need to quarantine. Continue to practice everyday prevention measures as you normally would.

I was in quarantine for being a close contact. Can I get a release from quarantine letter for my employer? (12/29/2021)

- Maine CDC does not provide release from quarantine letters.
- You should work with your employer to determine when you can safely return to work.
If you are a healthcare worker, use this guidance.  
If you are not a healthcare worker, use this guidance.

Who decides how long people must quarantine in Maine? (10/27/2021)

- Public health policies, such as quarantine length, are determined by local health authorities and are based on the latest available science from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (U.S. CDC). According to the U.S. CDC, “Your local public health authorities make the final decisions about how long quarantine should last, based on local conditions and needs.” In Maine, the “local public health authority” is the Maine CDC.
- The Maine CDC’s Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on the Investigation of COVID-19 in Pre-K-12 Schools sets forth Maine CDC’s recommendations for prevention and management of COVID-19 in school settings. But where a particular public health policy applies generally to everyone in the state, regardless of age or setting, only the Maine CDC may establish the policy (e.g., quarantine or isolation length). For matters that are internal to a school setting, the school system itself may set the guidance. Schools must adhere to Maine CDC’s uniform, statewide quarantine policy.

Isolation (for people who have COVID-19)

What is the difference between isolation and quarantine? (12/29/2020)

- Quarantine means that you need to separate yourself from others because you may have been exposed to the COVID-19 virus but are not currently symptomatic.
- Self-isolation means that you need to separate yourself from others because you may be infected with the COVID-19 virus and you are experiencing symptoms.

How do I know if I need to isolate? (1/6/2022)

- You should isolate immediately if you have COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status. This includes:
  - If you test positive on a COVID-19 viral test (molecular or antigen, including at-home antigen tests)
  - If you have symptoms of COVID-19, including while you are waiting for test results.
- The healthcare provider or testing site that collected your specimen should contact you to let you know the results of your test. If you test positive, isolate immediately.
- Maine CDC may contact you if you test positive to collect more information about your symptoms, exposure, and close contacts. You do not need to contact Maine CDC to report your own results.

I tested positive for COVID-19. Now what should I do? (1/6/2022)

- Regardless of your vaccination status, as soon as you find out about your positive test result OR when you start experiencing symptoms (whichever is sooner), you should isolate.
- **If you are a healthcare worker**, work with your employer or workplace contact (occupational health, etc.) to determine when you can return to work using this guidance.
- **If you are not a healthcare worker**, you should follow this guidance.
- Notify your close contacts to let them know about their exposure.
- Maine CDC may call you to gather information about your symptoms, exposures, and close contacts. It is important that you answer this call.

Do I need to isolate if I am fully vaccinated? (12/29/2021)

- Yes, regardless of vaccination status, if you develop any symptoms of COVID-19 or test positive on any antigen or molecular COVID-19 test, you should isolate immediately.
• If you are a **healthcare worker**, contact your employer or workplace contact (occupational health, etc.) to determine when you can leave isolation and return to work using [this guidance](#).

**How do I isolate? (1/6/2022)**

- Stay home and separate from others. As much as possible, stay in a specific “sick room” or area of the house and use a separate bathroom, if available.
- If you must be around others in your home, wear a well-fitting face covering at all times when around others.
- Monitor your symptoms. If you have an [emergency warning sign](#) (like trouble breathing), seek emergency medical care immediately. You can leave isolation for emergency medical care, but should let them know that you have COVID-19, if possible.
- Do not share personal household items, like cups, towels, or utensils.
- Take steps to [improve ventilation at home](#), if possible.
- Isolate until you meet the [criteria to leave isolation](#), based on whether you have symptoms.

**When can I leave isolation? (not a healthcare worker) (1/6/2022)**

- This guidance is for people who are not healthcare workers.
- You should stay in isolation for a minimum of 5 days. Use [this flow chart](#) to determine when you are able to leave isolation.
- If an antigen test is available, take a test toward the end of the 5-day isolation period, only if you have been fever-free for 24 hours without using fever-reducing medication and your other symptoms have improved.
  - If the test results are positive, continue to isolate for another 5 days.
  - If the test results are negative, you can end isolation but continue to wear a well-fitting face covering until 10 days after your symptoms started or you first tested positive.
- Once you are able to leave your sick room and home, continue to wear a well-fitting face covering for 5 days at home and in public around other people.
  - If you are unable to wear a face covering, you should isolate for at least 10 days and until you are fever free for 24 hours (without using fever-reducing medication) and your other symptoms are resolving.
- You should not travel while you are in isolation. After you end isolation, avoid travel until a full 10 days after your first day of symptoms or first positive test.
  - If you must travel during this period after ending isolation, wear a well-fitting face covering when you are around others for the entire time you are traveling.
  - If you are unable to wear a face covering, you should not travel during this time.
- These criteria do not apply to healthcare workers, people with [severe COVID-19](#), people with [weakened immune systems](#) or people in certain [high-risk congregate settings](#).

**When can I leave isolation? (Healthcare worker) (12/29/2021)**

- This guidance is for people who are healthcare workers.
- Work with your employer or workplace contact (occupational health, etc.) to determine when you can return to work if you tested positive for COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-like symptoms.
  - Your employer will provide guidance based on your vaccination and booster status, staffing situation at your workplace, and [this guidance from US CDC](#).

**How do I know who my close contacts are? (9/17/2021)**

- You can see the definition of a close contact [here](#).
Do I need to tell my close contacts about their exposure to COVID-19? (10/22/2021)
- Yes, you should notify your close contacts about their exposure.
- If a Maine CDC case investigator reaches out to you, you should also share the names and contact information for your close contacts with the investigator.

Will Maine CDC contact me about my positive test result? (9/17/2021)
- Due to an increase in case volume, Maine CDC has focused its efforts to follow up with COVID-19 cases on a smaller range of ages or those who meet certain criteria. Depending on available resources and case levels, Maine CDC may follow up with other cases who do not meet these criteria.
- As a result, Maine CDC may not contact you if you test positive. It is very important that you notify your close contacts yourself and let them know about their exposure.

Why have I not heard from Maine CDC about my positive test result? (9/17/2021)
- Due to an increase in case volume, Maine CDC has focused its efforts to follow up with COVID-19 cases on a smaller range of ages or those who meet certain criteria. Depending on available resources and case levels, Maine CDC may follow up with other cases who do not meet these criteria.
- As a result, Maine CDC may not contact you if you test positive. It is very important that you notify your close contacts yourself and let them know about their exposure.

Why did I receive a text about a positive result? (12/29/2021)
- People who test positive for COVID-19 and provide their telephone number to their testing site will receive a text message from Maine CDC letting them know about the positive result.
- Individuals will also be directed to more information on what to do next.

I received a text from Maine CDC about a positive result but have not tested recently. Why did this happen? (12/10/2021)
- When Maine CDC receives a positive lab result, they send a text message to the phone number that is reported with the lab result.
  - Maine CDC does not have a way to verify that this number is correct.
- Several family members may list the same contact phone number when getting a COVID-19 test. If you receive this text message, ask other family members if they had a recent COVID-19 test.
  - COVID-19 test results should come from the healthcare provider or facility that collected the COVID-19 sample.

How do I know if the positive result text from Maine CDC is legitimate? (12/29/2020)
- Messages from Maine CDC will come from the number 22300.

What should I do if I already had COVID-19 within the last 90 days and become symptomatic again? (1/6/2022)
- An individual who develops new onset of symptoms consistent with COVID-19 during the 90-day period following the initial positive result should be retested and should isolate.
  - If the test comes back positive, they will need to isolate until they meet the criteria to be released from isolation.
  - If the test comes back negative, they will need to isolate until 24 hours after symptoms resolve without fever-reducing medication. They should also contact a healthcare provider to see if there are any other steps they should take.
I had COVID-19 and was in isolation. Can I get a release from isolation letter for my employer? (12/29/2021)

- Maine CDC does not provide release from isolation letters.
- You should work with your employer to determine when you meet criteria to leave isolation and safely return to work. If you are a healthcare worker, use this guidance with your employer. If you are not a healthcare worker, use this guidance.

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COVID-19 Information for Businesses, Schools, and Childcare Facilities

Where can I find information about the COVID-19 response in schools? (9/17/2021)

- The Maine Department of Education has a COVID-19 toolkit available to share information about the COVID-19 response in schools.
- For more information about how schools respond to positive cases, see the Standard Operating Procedures for Responding to a Positive Case in Schools.

Why does the quarantine guidance that the school told me for my child differ from the general guidance? (9/17/2021)

- The quarantine guidance for students in Maine schools depends on multiple factors, including if the student is fully vaccinated, if they recently tested positive for COVID-19, if they participate in school pooled testing, and whether the school strictly enforces a mandatory masking policy.
- If students meet certain criteria, they may be allowed to continue attending school and school-based activities if they are close contacts, though they may still need to quarantine when outside of school.
- You can find more information in the Standard Operating Procedures for Responding to a Positive Case in Schools.
- Please contact your school with questions about why specific guidance was given for your student.

What do I need to do if one of my employees tests positive for COVID-19? (Not a healthcare worker) (12/29/2021)

- The employee needs to immediately isolate at home, regardless of vaccination status. If the employee is at work when notified of the positive result, please send them home immediately.
- Gather the names of close contacts of the positive employee. While maintaining the confidentiality of the positive employee as much as possible, notify the close contacts of their exposure. Use this guidance to determine if close contacts need to quarantine.
- Inform other employees who do not meet the definition of close contact of their potential exposure, while maintaining the confidentiality of the positive employee, and advise them to monitor for symptoms for 14 days.
- Clean and disinfect the workplace around the employee’s workstation, including high-touch shared surfaces.
- In most cases, closing the facility is not necessary, providing you can maintain staffing needs while employees isolate or quarantine appropriately.
  o Make sure you have a policy in place to support employees who must isolate, quarantine, or care for sick family members.

What do I need to do if one of my employees tests positive for COVID-19? (Healthcare worker) (12/29/2021)

- Use this guidance to determine isolation guidance for your employee.
• Gather the names of close contacts of the positive employee. While maintaining the confidentiality of the positive employee as much as possible, notify the close contacts of their exposure. Use this guidance to determine if close contacts need to quarantine.

• Inform other employees who do not meet the definition of close contact of their potential exposure, while maintaining the confidentiality of the positive employee, and advise them to monitor for symptoms for 14 days.

• Clean and disinfect the workplace around the employee’s workstation, including high-touch shared surfaces.

• In most cases, closing the facility is not necessary, providing you can maintain staffing needs while employees isolate or quarantine appropriately.
  o Make sure you have a policy in place to support employees who must isolate, quarantine, or care for sick family members.

If one of my employees tested positive for COVID-19, do I need to report it to Maine CDC? (9/17/2021)

• The places and people required to report any reportable disease, including COVID-19, are health care providers, medical laboratories, health care facilities, childcare facilities, correctional facilities, educational institutions, administrators, health officers, veterinarians, and veterinary laboratories.

• If you do not fall into one of the above categories, you are not required to report COVID-19 positive cases to Maine CDC.

If one of my employees tested positive for COVID-19, should I notify the rest of my employees? (12/4/20)

• Inform your employees of their possible exposure to COVID-19. Employers should do contact tracing within their own facility and notify all close contacts of their need to quarantine.

• Employers must keep the identity of the individual who tested positive confidential.

Do I need to close my business if an employee is positive for COVID-19? (9/17/2021)

• In most cases, closing your facility is not necessary, provided you can maintain staffing to operate safely while employees follow appropriate isolation and quarantine guidance.

I run a childcare facility. What do I need to do if a staff member or child tests positive for COVID-19? (12/29/2021)

• Any person who tests positive for COVID-19 should isolate immediately. If the positive case is in your facility when they receive results, they should go home to isolate as soon as is safely possible.

• Collect the names of children and staff who are close contacts. While maintaining the confidentiality of the positive person as, notify the close contacts of their exposure. Use this guidance to determine their quarantine requirement.

• Inform other staff and parents of children who do not meet the definition of close contact of their potential exposure, while maintaining the confidentiality of the positive person, and advise them to monitor for symptoms for 14 days.

• Clean and disinfect the facility, including high-touch shared surfaces.

• Closing the facility is not necessary, providing you can maintain staffing needs for safe operation while staff isolate or quarantine appropriately.
  o Make sure you have a policy in place to support staff who must isolate, quarantine, or care for sick family members.
I run a childcare facility. What do I need to do if a parent of a child tests positive for COVID-19? (12/29/2021)

- If the child of the positive parent is a close contact, the child needs to quarantine and should not come to your facility.
- Collect the names of children and staff who are close contacts of the positive parent. While maintaining the confidentiality of the positive person, notify the close contacts of their exposure. Use this guidance to determine their quarantine requirement.
- **Clean and disinfect** the facility, including high-touch shared surfaces, especially places where the parent may have been in your facility, starting from 48 hours before their symptoms started or their positive test was collected if asymptomatic.

My employee is in isolation/quarantine. Should I require a release letter to let them come back to work? (4/13/2021)

- No. Maine CDC does not provide release from isolation/quarantine letter.
- You should work with your employee directly to determine when it is safe for them to return to work.

Should I require retesting or a negative test result for my employee to come back to work after they had COVID-19? (9/17/2021)

- Maine CDC does not recommend retesting or requiring a negative test result for employees to return to work.
- This is because a person who had COVID-19 may continue to test positive for the virus for up to 90 days without being infectious.

Daily Life and COVID-19

I need help with rent assistance/evictions due to COVID-19. Who can I contact? (12/21/2020)

- Visit [www.mainehousing.org/covidrent](http://www.mainehousing.org/covidrent) for more information on rent assistance during COVID-19.
- Please contact the Maine State Housing Authority for assistance at 207-626-4600.

I am in isolation or quarantine and need help with groceries or other resources. How can I get help? (9/17/2021)

- Fill out this referral form for assistance with groceries, medications, and other resources while in COVID-19 isolation or quarantine.

How can I cope with stress during a COVID-19 outbreak in my community? (4/22/2020)

- An outbreak of COVID-19 in your community may be very stressful. Maine CDC has information available for individuals who may be stressed, need to connect with someone, or are in crisis.
- A Frontline Warm Line is available for first responders, health care workers, those in law enforcement, and anyone else who is involved in the direct response to COVID-19.
  - Call 207-221-8196 or 866-367-4440 to connect with someone for support services.
  - Volunteers staffing the Warm Line include licensed psychiatrists, psychologists, therapists, social workers, and nurse practitioners.

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Travel

What are Maine’s policies for domestic travel for non-healthcare workers? (5/13/2021)
- Maine moved to an “All states exempt unless specified” approach to travel quarantine. This means that travelers from or returning from exempt states are not required to test or quarantine upon arrival.
- Testing is still recommended.
- The list of non-exempt states can be found here.

What are Maine’s policies for international travelers coming to Maine for non-healthcare workers? (1/6/2022)
- For people who are fully vaccinated (at least 14 days past the last dose of their initial COVID-19 series) who arrive in Maine:
  - Quarantine is not required.
    - Self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms – isolate and get tested as soon as possible if you develop symptoms.
  - Get tested 3-5 days after arrival in the US.
    - If the COVID-19 test is positive, isolate.
- For all people who are not fully vaccinated and arrive in Maine within 7 days of entering the United States:
  - Quarantine for 5 days from arrival in the US
  - Get a COVID-19 molecular or antigen test 3-5 days after arrival in the US.
    - If the COVID-19 test is positive, isolate.
    - Even if the COVID-19 test is negative, complete the 5-day quarantine after travel.
  - Avoid being around anyone who is at increased risk of severe COVID-19 illness for 14 days following arrival in the US, regardless of COVID-19 test results.
- Travelers arriving in the US within 90 days after a documented COVID-19 infection (regardless of vaccination status) does not need to get a test 3-5 days after travel or complete the quarantine if unvaccinated.
- For individuals who arrive in Maine more than 5 days after travel, follow guidelines for domestic travelers arriving in Maine.
- Travel guidance for all passengers coming to the United States, including US citizens, can be found here.

What are Maine’s policies for domestic travel for healthcare workers? (1/6/2022)
- Visit Maine CDC’s Healthcare Associated Infection Program’s site for more information on travel exposure guidance for healthcare workers.

What are Maine’s policies for international travel for healthcare workers? (1/6/2022)
- Visit Maine CDC’s Healthcare Associated Infection Program’s site for more information on travel exposure guidance for healthcare workers.

What type of test do I need to get if I am coming to Maine from outside the United States? (12/29/2021)
- Find requirements for entering the US here.

I need a specific COVID-19 test type (PCR, antigen) to travel. Where can I find a test? (9/17/2021)
- Visit www.maine.gov/covid19/testing to find a list of COVID-19 testing sites. This is not an all-inclusive list.
  - Maine CDC cannot guarantee the availability of appointments, test type, or timing of results at these sites. Call ahead to learn more from the site before arriving for a test.
- Maine has seen recent dramatic increases in demand for COVID-19 testing. If you know that you need a test for travel, make an appointment as soon as possible. Some sites may not provide testing for travel clearance due to high demand.
What kind of COVID-19 test do I need to go to Canada? (9/17/2021)
• Find information about COVID testing prior to going to Canada [here](#).

• Due to high testing volume at this time, state-sponsored COVID-19 testing sites are not currently providing testing for travel clearance. Maine CDC does not keep an updated list of all testing sites in the state.
  o Check with local pharmacies, urgent cares, and healthcare providers for testing availability in your area. Call ahead as soon as possible to schedule your test.
  o It is up to the discretion of individual pharmacies and healthcare providers to offer testing for travel purposes.
• Maine has seen recent dramatic increases in demand for COVID-19 testing. If you know that you need a test for travel, make an appointment as soon as possible. Some sites may not provide testing for travel clearance due to high demand.

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