



DATE: May 14, 2021

**HEALTH ADVISORY: QUARANTINE FOR RESIDENTS OF NON-HEALTHCARE  
CONGREGATE SETTINGS EXPOSED TO COVID-19**

**Summary**

- This advisory aligns with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People](#) issued on April 29, 2021 as it relates to fully vaccinated residents of non-healthcare congregate settings.
- Employees of non-healthcare congregate settings should refer to relevant agency or workplace return to work guidance.
- Community persons exposed to COVID-19 should refer to the above linked CDC guidance as well as the NYS Update to Health Advisory issued on April 22, 2021 located [here](#).
- This advisory does not pertain to persons being cared for within a healthcare setting.
- This advisory does not pertain to residents of state-operated juvenile justice facilities.
- This advisory does not pertain to new admissions to non-healthcare congregate facilities.

**General Definitions**

- **Fully vaccinated** is defined as being 2 or more weeks after the final dose (e.g., first for Janssen/Johnson & Johnson, second for Pfizer and Moderna) of the vaccine approved by the FDA or authorized by the FDA for emergency use.
  - Vaccines that are not authorized by the U.S. Federal Drug Administration (FDA) for emergency use or approved by the FDA do not satisfy this definition.
- **Recently recovered** is defined as recovered from laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 by meeting the criteria for discontinuation of isolation within the 3-month period of either the initial onset of symptoms related to the laboratory confirmed COVID-19 infection or, if asymptomatic during the illness, the date of the laboratory confirmed test.
- **Non-healthcare congregate setting** is defined as an environment where several or more people reside in proximity for extended periods of time. Examples of non-healthcare congregate settings include but are not limited to shelters for people experiencing homelessness, group homes for people with intellectual or developmental disabilities, behavioral/developmental or rehabilitation residential homes, correctional and detention facilities, residential facilities licensed or certified by the Office of Children and Family Services, and adult care facilities **except those** certified as Enhanced Assisted Living Residences (EALR) or licensed as Assisted Living Programs (ALP).

## Quarantine Requirements

- **Fully vaccinated residents of non-healthcare congregate settings exposed to COVID-19:**
  - **Asymptomatic** fully vaccinated residents of non-healthcare congregate settings no longer need to quarantine following a known exposure to COVID-19.
  - Testing is still recommended for fully vaccinated residents following an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
  - Fully vaccinated residents exposed to COVID-19 who are experiencing **symptoms** consistent with COVID-19 must isolate themselves and should be clinically evaluated for COVID-19.
  - Residents should be supported in consulting with their healthcare provider if they have any questions about their individual situation, such as immunocompromising conditions or other concerns.
  
- **Recently recovered residents of non-healthcare congregate settings exposed to COVID-19:**
  - **Asymptomatic** residents exposed to COVID-19 who have been recently diagnosed with laboratory confirmed COVID-19, and have since recovered, are not required to retest and quarantine provided the new exposure is within 3 months after the date of symptom onset from the initial COVID-19 infection or date of first positive diagnostic test if asymptomatic during illness.
  - Recently recovered residents who are experiencing **symptoms** consistent with COVID-19 must isolate themselves and should be clinically evaluated for COVID-19.
  - Residents should be supported in consulting with their healthcare provider if they have any questions about their individual situation, such as immunocompromising conditions or other concerns.
  
- **Residents of non-healthcare congregate settings who are neither fully vaccinated nor recently recovered and are exposed to COVID-19:**
  - Residents who have been exposed to someone with confirmed or suspected COVID-19, who are not fully vaccinated or have not recovered from COVID-19 in the previous 3 months, **are required to quarantine for 14 days after exposure.**
  - Testing is recommended following an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
  - Testing is not required to end quarantine if no [symptoms](#) have been reported during the quarantine period. However, a test should be sought immediately if any symptoms develop during the 14 days after exposure. Guidance regarding quarantine can be found [here](#).

## **Monitoring Requirements for Everyone after Exposure to COVID-19**

**Irrespective of quarantine status**, all residents exposed to COVID-19 must:

- Monitor symptoms daily from day of exposure (or first date of awareness of exposure if there is a delay in learning this) through Day 14;
- Continue strict adherence to all recommended non-pharmaceutical interventions, including hand hygiene and the use of face coverings, through Day 14 (even if fully vaccinated); and
- Immediately isolate if any symptoms develop and contact the local public health authority or their health care provider to report the symptoms and determine if testing is needed.

### **Local Health Departments and Quarantine Orders**

Local health departments (LHDs) will continue to identify individuals who may have been exposed to COVID-19. Contact tracing interviews now include questions about vaccination status and previous COVID infection. Contact tracers may validate reports of vaccination status in NYSIIS or CIR, the statewide or New York City immunization registries, during the interview.

### **Additional Information**

This guidance applies only to residents of non-healthcare congregate settings who have been exposed to COVID-19 and who have not tested positive as a result of a recent exposure. Consistent with ongoing NYS DOH requirements, individuals who test **positive for COVID-19 must isolate**. Information on the criteria and duration for isolation can be found [here](#).