



# Technical Bulletin



**Date:** February 12, 2021

**Topic:** **Quarantine Guidance for Vaccinated Persons**

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**To:** Public Health Authorities, Health Care Providers and Long-Term Care Facilities

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## **Background**

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued Emergency Use Authorizations (EUA) for two mRNA COVID-19 vaccines, which consist of a two-dose series administered intramuscularly:

1. Pfizer-BioNTech: administered three weeks (21 days) apart
2. Moderna: administered one month (28 days) apart

These vaccines have demonstrated high efficacy at preventing severe and symptomatic COVID-19 illness. However, there is currently limited data on how much the vaccines might reduce transmission of COVID-19, and for how long protection lasts. In addition, the efficacy of the vaccines against newly emerging variant strains is still undetermined. It is important that all vaccinated persons continue to follow current mitigation measures to protect themselves and others, including wearing a facemask, social distancing, avoiding crowds, avoiding poorly ventilated spaces, properly covering coughs and sneezes, washing hands often, following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) travel guidance, and adhering to any workplace or school guidance.

## **Updated Guidance on Quarantine of Vaccinated Persons**

CDC updated the quarantine guidance for those that have been fully vaccinated. Persons who have been fully vaccinated and subsequently exposed to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 are not required to quarantine if they meet all of the following criteria:

- Are fully vaccinated (i.e.,  $\geq 2$  weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or  $\geq 2$  weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine)
- Are within 3 months following receipt of the last dose in the series
- Have remained asymptomatic since the current COVID-19 exposure

Persons who do not meet all three of the above criteria should continue to follow current quarantine guidance after exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19. The current quarantine guidance can be found here: <http://dph.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/dphnvgov/content/Resources/TechBull-Updated-CDC-Quarantine-12-02-2020.pdf>

Fully vaccinated persons who do not quarantine should still monitor themselves for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days following their last exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19. If symptoms develop, they should be clinically evaluated and tested for COVID-19 if indicated.

## **Quarantine of Vaccinated Health Care Personnel, Patients and Residents in Health Care Settings:**

The above criteria could also be applied when considering work restrictions for fully vaccinated health care personnel with higher-risk exposures, as a strategy to alleviate staffing shortages as it allows health care personnel to continue working after an exposure. This reduces the number of health care personnel out on lengthy quarantine periods.

An exception to this guidance is in place for fully **vaccinated inpatients and residents in health care settings as they should continue to quarantine following an exposure** to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19. This exception is due to the unknown vaccine effectiveness in this population, the higher risk of severe disease and death, and challenges with social distancing in health care settings.

Although not preferred, health care 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. **Consultation with public health officials and infection control experts is required prior to making any changes.**

This technical bulletin only addresses changes to quarantine for vaccinated individuals. It is not meant to provide guidance for changes in the usage of personal protective equipment (PPE), cohorting practices in long-term care facilities or for changes in testing protocols. Updated guidance will be made available as more is learned about the vaccine's effectiveness.

**Questions:**

For updated guidance, please review the DPBH Technical Bulletin [website](#) and Nevada's COVID-19 response [website](#) regularly. Email [dpbhepi@health.nv.gov](mailto:dpbhepi@health.nv.gov) with questions.

If you have questions about your county's specific vaccine rollout plan, please email [COVIDVaxHelp@immunizenevada.org](mailto:COVIDVaxHelp@immunizenevada.org).

A statewide call center is also available to help answer your questions and guide you to a vaccination provider if you are eligible to receive the vaccine based on your county's plans. Please call 1-800-401-0946 for assistance with any COVID-19 vaccination or testing questions.



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