

County of Erie Covid-19 Guidance

COVID-19 vaccines are effective in preventing the spread of COVID-19. COVID-19 remains a serious public health threat to unvaccinated individuals.

Isolation and quarantine, both effective public health measures, will continue to be enforced by the Erie County Department of Health to slow the spread of COVID-19.

KEY TERMS:

ISOLATION = SICK: Is an order placed on an individual who either 1) tested positive for COVID-19, or 2) is a probable case of COVID-19 as defined by public health staff. Isolation is generally 10 days as long as the following criteria are met:

- At least 10 days have passed *since symptoms first appeared* **AND**
- At least 24 hours have passed *since last fever* without the use of fever-reducing medications **AND**
- Symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) have improved

QUARANTINE=EXPOSED: Is a restriction period placed upon a close contact. The most protective quarantine period remains at 14 days after the last exposure (Day 0) to an individual infected with COVID-19. Options to reduce the 14-day quarantine are available (see the options to reduce a 14-day quarantine below). When quarantine is reduced from 14 days, daily symptom monitoring must continue through day 14 and persons must adhere strictly through Day 14 after exposure to all recommended non-pharmaceutical interventions (e.g., masking, physical distancing). If any symptoms develop, they should immediately self-isolate and obtain COVID testing.

Quarantine will usually last longer if persons live with a confirmed or probable case.

An individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 90 days, has recovered and is not experiencing symptoms does not have to quarantine but does need to monitor for symptoms after exposure.

FULLY VACCINATED: A person is considered fully vaccinated if it has been 2 weeks or more since the second dose in a two-dose series, such as Pfizer or Moderna, or 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson. The date of vaccination is day zero.

Fully vaccinated individuals who are not experiencing symptoms do not need to quarantine after exposure to an infectious individual. If a fully vaccinated individual develops symptoms, exclude from work and seek testing.

If you are fully vaccinated **AND** remain free of symptoms you can refrain from quarantine.

UNVACCINATED: A person who does not fit the definition of “fully vaccinated”, including people whose vaccination status is unknown.

PROBABLE CASE: is an individual that is a known close contact of a positive case and is exhibiting symptoms consistent with COVID-19. Probable case is saying, “we are so sure that you have COVID-19 that we don’t need to test you”. COVID-19 is the most probable cause and the individual

is regarded the same as an individual having a positive COVID-19 test result. Probable case is not to be confused with a “Possible Case”.

CLOSE CONTACT: Is an individual that was within 6 feet of a POSITIVE/PROBABLE case for 15 minutes or more within a 24-hour time period during the infectious period of the person with COVID disease. The infectious period starts 48 hours before the first symptom developed, if the case had symptoms OR starts the day the infected person was tested, if that person did not have any symptoms.

If an employee believes they are a close contact, let their supervisor know. Supervisor then contacts Heather Ryan, hryan@eriecountypa.gov. ECDH will investigate to determine the steps necessary.

TESTING:

Anyone who is exposed to an individual infected with COVID-19 should seek testing 2-5 days after their exposure regardless of vaccination status. Fully vaccinated individuals do not need to quarantine as long as they remain free of symptoms and/or receive a negative test. Fully vaccinated individuals should wear a mask around other individuals for 14 days after their exposure or until after they receive a negative test result.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF MY TEST IS POSITIVE?

- Self-isolate in your home until each of the following conditions are met:
 - a. At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared **AND**
 - b. At least 1 day (24 hours) has passed with no fever, defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever reducing medications **AND**
 - c. There is improvement in symptoms.

WHAT DO I DO IF THEIR TEST IS NEGATIVE?

If you had a **known exposure to a confirmed or probable case**, employees should quarantine. The most protective quarantine period remains at 14 days after the last exposure (Day 0) to an individual infected with COVID-19. The following options to reduce a 14-day quarantine are:

- a) Quarantine can end on Day 11 without testing
- or
- b) Quarantine can end on Day 8 of quarantine if a diagnostic specimen (PCR only) collected on or after Day 5 tests negative

AND, if the following conditions are met:

- Employee agrees to daily symptom monitoring through Day 14; **AND**,
- Employee does not experience any symptoms or clinical evidence of COVID-19 from daily symptom monitoring during the entirety of quarantine up to the time at which quarantine is discontinued; **AND**,
- Persons are counseled regarding the need to adhere strictly through Day 14 after exposure to all recommended non-pharmaceutical interventions (e.g., masking, physical distancing). **AND**,

1. If you were tested but had no known exposure to a confirmed or probable case, and you are asymptomatic, you can stop your self-quarantine.
2. If you were tested but had no known exposure to a confirmed or probable case, and you are symptomatic, you may have another respiratory pathogen that is circulating in the community. Avoid work and group settings until 24 hours after the last day of your respiratory symptoms and fever.

PHYSICIAN DOCUMENTATION IF NOT TESTED

The employee will be required to provide documentation from a medical provider confirming that the employee can return to work, and that any lingering symptoms, are not the result of COVID-19.

UNVACCINATED individuals MUST continue to take the following prevention measures in the workplace:

1. Keep your physical distance. Stay at least six feet from others. If you must be closer physical barriers should be used.
2. Wash your hands with soap and water frequently for at least 20 seconds. Use hand sanitizer if you can't get to a sink.
3. Keep high touch surfaces and equipment clean. Help disinfect common areas, shared spaces and equipment.

Additional Considerations: ALL individuals should continue wear a mask in correctional facilities, healthcare settings, and homeless shelters.

MASKING:

When Erie County is experiencing substantial or high transmission, all employees are expected to wear a mask in indoor public settings regardless of vaccination status; unvaccinated employees should continue to wear a mask at ALL times including outdoors.

TRAVEL:

Individuals who are fully vaccinated can travel safely within the United States. Unvaccinated staff are encouraged to reconsider any unnecessary travel. Travel for work-related reasons will not be permitted for unvaccinated individuals.

EXPOSURE:

If there is exposure in a county building to a likely or confirmed case of COVID-19, take the following steps:

- Keep others out of the areas used or visited by the sick person.
- Clean and disinfect. Wait at least 24 hours before cleaning or disinfecting the area visited or used by the sick person. Do the same for all shared areas and equipment used by the sick person.
- Open windows and doors to let air in. Use ventilation fans to circulate air.
- Identify and notify workers who were in close contact with the sick person. Close contact means within six feet for 15 minutes or more up to 48 hours before the first symptoms appeared for the sick person. Tell persons who have had close contact with someone with possible symptoms to monitor symptoms and send them home if they develop symptoms.

HIPPA:

Health Information Portability and Accountability Act of 1996. For supervisors, this means not disclosing any personally identifiable information (name, age, gender, race, location, etc.) to anyone other than a health care provider. Within the Erie County Governmental organization, a supervisor may freely discuss the individual with the assigned Health Department/ HR contacts.

Heather Ryan hryan@eriecountypa.gov or x7815 is a resource for County employees.

SUPERVISOR RIGHTS:

This document is meant to outline the minimum responsibility for the safety of staff and citizens. Supervisors may discuss any additional measures with their department heads and ECDH. To find a COVID-19 vaccine near you, go to www.vaccines.gov.

UPDATED INFORMATION: For updated or more detailed information visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and PA. Dept. of Health COVID guidance documents at

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>

<https://www.governor.pa.gov/covid-19/businessguidance/#ForEmployer>