

COVID-19 UPDATE

FACE COVERINGS FOLLOWING VACCINATION

MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT CEO / HR DIRECTOR

As the COVID-19 vaccine continues to be deployed to employees and the public throughout Riverside County, questions have arisen regarding the continued use of face coverings for employees who are fully vaccinated for COVID-19. To ensure our employees continue to follow the state and County requirements, we are confirming the guidelines surrounding face coverings during COVID-19.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued information related to the facial covering protocols for fully vaccinated individuals. However, in California we are still governed by the CalOSHA requirements and presently there is no change to the facial covering requirements for our employees while at work.

On June 10, 2020, the County Executive Officer issued a statement that required all County employees to wear facial coverings when at work to reduce the exposure to COVID-19 in the workplace. Subsequently on June 18, 2020 the State released a directive also requiring the use of face coverings for everyone when in areas where social distancing was not possible. These mandates remain in effect for all employees, even after employees are vaccinated.

Face coverings remain a requirement of our County workforce regardless of whether you received a COVID-19 vaccination. Appropriate face coverings, such as scarves (dense fabric, without holes), bandanas, neck gaiter, or other fabric face coverings to reduce the spread of COVID-19 must be worn while you are at work. The fabric face coverings should cover your nose and mouth to prevent the spray from a cough or sneeze and to reduce the transmission of COVID-19.

The CDC states that even if an individual has received both doses of the COVID-19 vaccination face coverings may still be required in certain situations. To protect yourself and others follow these recommendations:

- Wear a mask over your nose and mouth
- Stay at least 6 feet away from others
- Avoid crowds
- Avoid poorly ventilated spaces
- Wash your hands often

It's important for everyone to continue using the tools available to help stop this pandemic.

The County shall provide face coverings as needed and ensure they are worn by employees where required by County CEO orders and from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). Please note that face shields are not a replacement for face coverings, although they may be worn together for additional protection as desired.

The following are exceptions to the face coverings requirement:

- When an employee is alone in a room.
- While eating and drinking at the workplace, provided employees are at least six feet apart and outside air supply to the area, if indoors, has been maximized to the extent possible.
- Employees wearing respiratory protection in accordance with section 5144 or other title safety orders.
- Employees who cannot wear face coverings due to a medical or mental health condition or disability, or who are hearing-impaired or communicating with a hearing-impaired person.
- Specific tasks which cannot feasibly be performed with a face covering. This exception is limited to the time period in which such tasks are actually being performed, and the unmasked employee shall be at least six feet away from all other persons unless unmasked employees are tested at least twice weekly for COVID-19.

Please note exemptions can be made for persons with a confirmed medical condition. Consult your supervisor/manager to determine next steps. According to [Cal OSHA regulation §3205 COVID-19 Prevention \(7\)\(B\)](#) face coverings are still required and a "face covering" is defined as "a tightly woven fabric or non-woven material with no visible holes or openings, which covers the nose and mouth."

COVID-19 is still present in our communities; therefore, the County in accordance with guidance from Cal OSHA continues to require that employees wear a face covering while in the workplace. Please use your best judgement as to the face covering that you wear and if you have any questions direct them to your supervisor.

As the California regulations are updated the County will amend its direction to employees accordingly.

Lastly, we are including the most current (as of this publication) [Public Health protocols](#) for reference which address fully vaccinated employees. Please note the protocols/guidance are updated on a continuous basis and it is recommended to check Public Health's [website](#) to ensure the most up to date information is being relied upon.

We continue to encourage each of you to protect yourselves by practicing social distancing, washing, or sanitizing your hands regularly and taking good care of yourselves during this challenging time.

Thank you for your service and your assistance in keeping both yourself and others safe.


BRENDA DIEDERICHS

**Protocol for County Health and Human Services Care Providers
(EH, All RUHS-PH, BH, CHCS, non-HCW Med Center and DPSS)
(Separate protocols for healthcare workers, first responders, and DOC/ EOC staff)**

Exposed **– Asymptomatic

- Ten-day quarantine*
 - Twice-daily temperature check.
 - Monitor for respiratory and other symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 (e.g., new loss of taste or smell)
 - If source patient tests negative, quarantine can be lifted.
 - If source patient tests positive, refer county worker to the Occupational Health nurse line for PCR testing, if it has been at least 5-7 days since the last exposure. Ten-day quarantine is still required despite a negative test, if tested prior to the end of the quarantine period.
- Asymptomatic exposed employees covered by this protocol, may work, but will be placed on Modified quarantine. They must wear a surgical mask while working.

Required precautions for exposed asymptomatic contacts allowed to reduce the quarantine period to ten day:

- Adhere strictly to all recommended non-pharmaceutical interventions, including wearing face coverings at all times, maintaining a distance of at least 6 feet from others and interventions required below, through day 14
- Use surgical face masks at all times during work for those returning after day ten and continue to use face coverings when outside the home through day 14 after last exposure
- Self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms through day 14 and if symptoms occur, immediately self-isolate and contact Riverside County Occupational Health Nurse line to discuss testing
- If asymptomatic, can be released from quarantine after 12:01 AM on the 10th day.
- If worker develops ANY symptoms, exclude from work, and refer to Occupational Health Nurse line for PCR testing unless within 7 days of symptom onset (see below).

Vaccinated persons* with an exposure 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., ≥2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or ≥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.

Exposed** – Symptomatic

- Exclude from work. Instruct in home isolation.
 - Twice-daily temperature check
 - Monitor for worsening respiratory or development of additional symptoms suggestive of COVID-19. (e.g. new loss of taste or smell)
- Refer to Riverside County Occupation Health Nurse line for PCR testing.
 - While test is pending continue home isolation.
 - If test is negative and no longer symptomatic:
 - If source patient ruled out, discontinue isolation and clear for work.
 - If source patient is positive, complete Ten-day quarantine. May return to work during the quarantine period with a surgical mask as above when completely asymptomatic and afebrile for at least 24 hours without taking fever reducing medication.
- If test is negative, but still symptomatic, an individualized assessment for other potential diagnosis (e.g., flu) is required to determine if repeat testing may be indicated.

Positive COVID-19 Test

- Resolution of fever for at least 24 hours since the last fever spike, without the use of fever-reducing medication **and** improvement in symptoms. (e.g., cough shortness of breath, sore throat).
- At least 10 days have passed since the *last positive test*. **Encourage workers not to retest.**

County Workers with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 who have not had any symptoms:

To remain on home isolation until:

- 10 days have passed since the date of their last positive COVID 19 diagnostic test assuming they have not subsequently developed symptoms. **Encourage workers not to retest.**
- If they develop symptoms, then the protocol for *symptomatic individuals* should be used.

**Exposure definition: Close contact within six feet of an infected person for a cumulative 15 minutes or more within a 24-hour period.

Note: PH clearance is **not** required.

Protocol for County Workers

(Separate protocols for healthcare workers, first responders, DOC/EOC staff, and County Health and Human Services Providers)

Exposed – Asymptomatic**

- Ten-day quarantine.*
 - Twice-daily temperature check.
 - Monitor for respiratory and other symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 (eg. new loss of taste or smell).
 - If source patient tests negative, quarantine can be lifted.
 - If source patient is positive, refer county worker for PCR testing if at least 5-7 days since date of exposure.
 - Ten-day quarantine is still required, despite a negative test, if tested prior to the end of the quarantine period.
 - If asymptomatic, can be released from quarantine after 12:01 AM 10th day.
- If county worker develops ANY symptoms, exclude from work, and refer for PCR testing unless tested within 7 days of symptom onset (see below).

Vaccinated persons* with an exposure 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., ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or ≥ 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 CDPH quarantine guidance after exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.

Exposed *– Symptomatic

- Exclude from work, instruct in home isolation.
 - Twice-daily temperature check
 - Monitor for worsening of respiratory symptoms or development of additional symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 (e.g. new loss of taste or smell).
- Refer for PCR testing
 - While test is pending, continue home isolation.
 - If test is negative and no longer symptomatic:
 - If source patient ruled out discontinue isolation and clear for work.
 - If source patient is positive, complete 10-day quarantine. May return to work *after* the quarantine period is over, if the person is completely asymptomatic and afebrile for at least 24 hours without taking fever reducing medication.
 - If test is negative, but still symptomatic, an individualized assessment for other potential diagnosis (e.g., flu) is required to determine whether repeat testing is indicated.

Positive COVID-19 Test

Symptomatic County Workers with suspected or confirmed COVID-19:

*To remain on home isolation until **all** conditions met:*

- Resolution of fever for at least 24 hours after the last fever spike, without use of fever-reducing medication **and** improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath; sore throat).
- At least 10 days have passed *since last positive test*.
- **Encourage workers not to retest for 90 days (unless known exposure and symptomatic)**

County Workers with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 who never had any symptoms:

To remain on home isolation until:

- 10 days have passed since the date of their last positive COVID 19 diagnostic test, assuming they have not subsequently developed symptoms. **Encourage workers not to retest.**
- If they develop symptoms, then the protocol for *symptomatic individuals* should be followed.
- Exposure definition: Close contact within six feet of an infected person for a cumulative 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.

**Exposure definition: Close contact within six feet of an infected person for a cumulative 15 minutes or more within a 24-hour period.

Note:PH clearance is **not** required.

**Protocol for Critical Infrastructure Workers:
Designated by the Governor's Executive Order as essential to ensure
continuity of functions critical to public health and safety
(Separate protocols for healthcare workers, first responders, and County Health
and Human Services care providers)**

Exposed **– Asymptomatic

- Ten-day quarantine*
 - Twice-daily temperature check.
 - Monitor for respiratory and other symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 (e.g., new loss of taste or smell)
 - If source patient tests negative, quarantine can be lifted.
 - If source patient tests positive, refer for PCR testing, if it has been at least 5-7 days since the last date of exposure. Ten-day quarantine is still required despite a negative test, if tested prior to the end of the quarantine period.
- Pursuant to Executive Order N-27-2020, asymptomatic exposed employees covered by this protocol, may work, but will be placed on modified quarantine. They must wear a surgical mask while working.

Required precautions for exposed asymptomatic contacts allowed to reduce the quarantine period to ten days must:

- Adhere strictly to all recommended non-pharmaceutical interventions, including wearing face coverings at all times, maintaining a distance of at least 6 feet from others and interventions required below, through day 14.
- Use surgical face masks at all times during work for those returning after day ten and continue to use face coverings when outside the home through day 14 after last exposure date.
- Self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms through day 14 and if symptoms occur, immediately self-isolate and obtain PCR testing.
 - If asymptomatic, can be released from quarantine after 12:01 AM on the 10th day.
 - If worker develops ANY symptoms, exclude from work, and refer for PCR testing unless within 7 days of symptom onset (see below)

Vaccinated persons* with an exposure 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., ≥2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or ≥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 CDPH quarantine guidance after exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.

Exposed – Symptomatic**

- Exclude from work. Instruct in home isolation.
 - Twice-daily temperature check
 - Monitor for worsening respiratory or development of additional symptoms suggestive of COVID-19. (e.g., new loss of taste or smell)
- Refer for PCR testing.
 - While test is pending, continue home isolation.
 - If test is negative and no longer symptomatic.
 - If source patient ruled out, discontinue isolation and clear for work.
 - If source patient is positive, complete ten-day quarantine. May return to work during the quarantine period with a surgical mask as above when completely asymptomatic and afebrile for at least 24 hours without taking fever reducing medication.
 - If test is negative, but still symptomatic, an individualized assessment for other potential diagnosis (e.g., flu) is required to determine whether repeat testing may be indicated.

Positive COVID-19 Test

Symptomatic Workers with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 to remain on home isolation until all conditions are met:

- Resolution of fever for at least 24 hours since the last fever spike, without the use of fever-reducing medication **and** improvement in symptoms. (e.g., cough shortness of breath, sore throat).
- At least 10 days have passed since the *last positive test*. **Encourage workers not to retest for 90 days (unless known exposure and symptomatic)**

Workers with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 who never had any symptoms:

To remain on home isolation until:

- 10 days have passed since the date of their last positive COVID 19 diagnostic test, assuming they have not subsequently developed symptoms. **Encourage workers not to retest for 90 days (unless known exposure and new symptoms).**
- If they develop symptoms, then the protocol for *symptomatic individuals* should be followed.

****Exposure definition:** Close contact within six feet of an infected person for a cumulative 15 minutes or more within a 24-hour period.

Note: PH clearance is **not** required.

Protocol for First Responders

(Law Enforcement; Fire Fighters; Paramedics; EMTs)

Exposed– Asymptomatic**

- Ten-day quarantine*
 - Twice-daily temperature check.
 - Monitor for COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, body aches, chills, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, congestion, runny nose, itchy/red eyes.)
 - Refer to the Special Investigation Team (SCIT) at 951-955-9732 for PCR testing **no earlier** than five days after last exposure date.
 - Pursuant to Executive Order N-27-2020, asymptomatic first responders may work but will be placed on modified quarantine. They must be able to wear a surgical mask or N-95 as appropriate, while working.
- First Responders who are unable to wear appropriate PPE while working, must be on home quarantine* for ten days after the last date of exposure.

Required precautions for exposed asymptomatic contacts permitted to reduce the quarantine period to 10 days must:

- Adhere strictly to all recommended non-pharmaceutical interventions, including wearing face coverings at all times, maintaining a distance of at least 6 feet (when feasible) from others and the interventions required below, through Day 14.
- Use surgical face masks at all times during work hours (except for meals) for those returning after Day 10 and continue to use face coverings when outside the home through Day 14 after last day of exposure.
- Self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms through Day 14 and if symptoms occur, immediately self-isolate. Exclude from work and refer to SCIT for PCR testing (see below).

Vaccinated persons* with an exposure 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., ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or ≥ 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 CDPH quarantine guidance after exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.

Exposed - Symptomatic**

- Exclude from work, instruct to self- isolate at home. Refer for PCR testing:
 - If PCR test result is **negative/virus not detected** and *the first responder's symptoms have resolved*, release from isolation but place on modified quarantine for 10 days from symptom onset. May return to work with a surgical mask or N-95 as appropriate (if allowed by employer).
 - If test result is **negative/virus not detected** but first responder is still symptomatic:
 - And tested < 5 days from symptom onset, **RETEST**.
 - And tested ≥ 5 days from symptom onset. An individualized assessment for other potential diagnosis (e.g., flu) is required for whether repeat PCR testing may be indicated.
 - If PCR test result is **positive/virus detected**, follow “Positive COVID-19 Test” guidelines below.

No known Exposure- Symptomatic**

- Exclude from work, instruct to isolate at home; refer for testing.
- If PCR test result is negative/virus not detected and the first responder's symptoms resolved, release from isolation and return to work.
- If test result is negative/virus not detected but first responder is still symptomatic:
 - And tested < 5 days from symptom onset, RETEST.
 - And tested ≥ 5 days from symptom onset. An individualized assessment for another diagnosis (e.g., flu) is required for whether repeat PCR testing may be indicated

Positive COVID-19 Test

Symptomatic First Responders with confirmed COVID-19

To remain on home isolation until:

- At least 10 days have passed *since the last positive test and*
- At least 24 hours after last fever spike without the use of fever-reducing medication **and** improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath; sore throat).
- **Encourage not to re-test for 90 days (unless known exposure and symptomatic)**

Note: Clearance by Public Health may be required.

First Responders with confirmed COVID-19 who Never had any symptoms:

To remain on home isolation until:

- 10 days have passed since the date of their last positive COVID 19 diagnostic test, assuming they have not subsequently developed symptoms.
- **Encourage not to re-test for 90 days (unless known exposure and symptomatic)**
- If they develop symptoms, then the *protocol for symptomatic individuals* should be followed.

* *Exposure definition: Close contact within six feet of an infected person for a cumulative 15 minutes or more within a 24-hour period.

Note: Clearance by Public Health may be required.

Riverside County Department of Public Health

www.rivcoph.org/coronavirus

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Protocol for Health Care Personnel (HCP) in General Acute Care and Acute Psychiatric Hospitals

(Health care personnel interacting with patients for medical, nursing, dental, mental health care; includes radiology/lab, patient transport as well as social workers providing direct services, OT/PT/RT and pharmacists)

Exposed ** – Asymptomatic

- Ten-day quarantine.
 - Twice-daily temperature check.
 - Monitor for respiratory and other symptoms consistent with COVID-19 (e.g. new loss of taste or smell).
 - If source patient tests negative, quarantine can be lifted.
 - If source patient tests positive, refer for PCR testing if it has been at least 5-7 days since date of exposure. Ten-day quarantine still required if tested prior to the end of the quarantine period.
- Pursuant to Executive Order N-27-2020, asymptomatic exposed HCP covered by this protocol may work, but will be placed on modified quarantine. They must wear a surgical mask or N-95, as appropriate, while working.
- Health Care Personnel who are unable to wear appropriate PPE while working must be on home quarantine for ten days* after the date of last exposure.

Required precautions for exposed asymptomatic contacts allowed to reduce the quarantine period to ten days must:

- Adhere strictly to all recommended non-pharmaceutical interventions, including wearing face coverings at all times, maintaining a distance of at least 6 feet from others and interventions required below, through day 14.
- Use surgical face masks at all times during work hours for those returning after day ten and continue to use face coverings when outside the home through day 14 after last exposure.
- Self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms through day 14 and if symptoms occur, immediately self-isolate and contact their healthcare provider or Riverside County Public Health and seek testing.
 - If asymptomatic, can be released from quarantine after 12:01 AM on the 10th day, with or without testing.
 - If ANY symptoms, exclude from work and refer for PCR testing unless tested within 7 days of symptom onset (otherwise evaluate for other potential causes).

*In accordance with CDPH AFL 21-08, during critical staffing shortages when there are not enough staff to provide safe patient care or a safe work environment for HCP, exposed asymptomatic HCP are not prohibited from returning after Day Seven from the date of last exposure, IF they have received a negative PCR test result from a specimen collected after Day 5 from the date of last exposure. This is considered an urgent measure and the hospital surge-staffing plan and/or other appropriate measures should be in effect.

Vaccinated persons with an exposure 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., ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or ≥ 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 CDPH quarantine guidance after exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.

Exposed ** – Symptomatic

- Exclude from work and instruct in home isolation.
 - Twice-daily temperature check
 - Monitor worsening or development of additional symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 (e.g., new loss of taste or smell).
- Refer for PCR testing, if testing is not available at the HCF:
 - While test is pending, continue home isolation.
 - If test is negative and no longer symptomatic:
 - If source patient ruled out, discontinue isolation and clear for work.
 - If source patient is positive, complete 10-day quarantine. May return to work with a surgical mask (if allowed by employer) when completely asymptomatic and afebrile for at least 24 hours without fever reducing medication.
 - If test is negative, but still symptomatic, an individualized assessment for other potential diagnosis (e.g., flu) is required to determine whether repeat testing is indicated.

Positive COVID-19 Test

Symptomatic Health Care Personnel with suspected or confirmed COVID-19

To remain on home isolation until:

- Resolution of fever for at least 24 hours, after the last fever spike, without the use of fever-reducing medication **and** improvement of symptoms. (e.g., cough, shortness of breath, sore throat); **and**,
- At least 10 days have passed *since last positive test*.
- **Encourage HCP not to retest for 90 days (unless new exposure and symptomatic)**

Health Care Personnel with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 who never had any symptoms

- To remain on home isolation until 10 days have passed since the date of their last positive COVID 19 diagnostic test, assuming they have not subsequently developed symptoms. If they develop symptoms, then the *protocol for symptomatic individuals* should be followed. **Encourage HCP not to retest for 90 days (unless new exposure and symptomatic).**

****Exposure definition:** Close contact within six feet of an infected person for a cumulative 15 minutes or more within a 24-hour period.

Note: PH clearance is not required. The Infection Preventionist in Acute Care Hospitals is the designated person to clear HCPs in their facilities.

Protocol for Health Care Personnel (HCP) in Skilled Nursing Facilities

(Healthcare personnel interacting with patients for medical, nursing, dental, mental health care, radiology/lab; patient transport as well as social workers providing direct services, OT/PT/RT, and pharmacists)

Exposed** – Asymptomatic.

- 14-day quarantine.
 - Twice-daily temperature check.
 - Monitor for respiratory and other symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 (e.g., new loss of taste or smell).
 - If source patient ruled out, quarantine can be lifted.
 - If source patient tests positive, recommend PCR testing if it has been at least 5-7 days since date of exposure. 14-day quarantine still required despite a negative test, if tested prior to the end of the quarantine period.
- Persons who reside or work in a high-risk congregate living setting (e.g., skilled nursing facilities, prisons, jails, shelters) or persons residing or working with severely immunosuppressed persons (e.g., Bone marrow or solid organ transplants, chemotherapy) should still quarantine for 14 days in the absence of staffing shortages.*
 - If asymptomatic, can be released from quarantine after 12:01 AM on the 14th day by the designated Infection Preventionist for the facility.
 - If develops ANY symptoms, exclude from work, and refer for PCR testing unless tested within 7 days of symptom onset.

*In accordance with CDPH AFL 21-08, during critical staffing shortages when there are not enough staff to provide safe patient care or a safe work environment for HCP, exposed asymptomatic HCP are not prohibited from returning after Day Seven from the date of last exposure IF they have received a negative PCR test result from a specimen collected after Day 5 from the date of last exposure. This is considered an urgent measure and the hospital surge-staffing plan and/or other appropriate measures should be in effect.

CDPH COVID-19 Quarantine Guidance for Fully Vaccinated People

Please note that there is an exception to the February 15, 2021 CDPH guidance no longer requiring quarantine for fully vaccinated persons., Vaccinated inpatients and residents in healthcare settings should continue to quarantine following an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19; outpatients should be cared for using appropriate Transmission-Based Precautions. 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 healthcare settings. Although not preferred, healthcare facilities could 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. Facilities should consult with Riverside County Public Health.

Exposed – Symptomatic.

- Exclude from work, instruct in home isolation.
 - Twice-daily temperature check
 - Monitor for worsening or development of additional symptoms suggestive of COVID- 19 (e.g., new loss of taste or smell).
- Refer for PCR testing if testing is not available at the facility.
 - While test is pending, continue home isolation.
 - If test is negative and no longer symptomatic:
 - If source patient ruled out, discontinue isolation and clear for work.
 - If source patient is positive, complete 14-day quarantine. May return to work with a surgical mask when completely asymptomatic and afebrile for at least 24 hours without taking fever reducing medication.
 - If test is negative, but still symptomatic, an individualized assessment for other potential diagnosis (e.g., flu) is required to determine whether repeat PCR testing is indicated.

Positive COVID-19 Test

Symptomatic Health Care Personnel (HCP) with suspected or confirmed COVID-19:

To remain on home isolation until:

- Resolution of fever for at least 24 hours, after the last fever spike, without the use of fever-reducing medication **and**
- Improvement of other symptoms. (e.g., cough, shortness of breath, sore throat) **and**
- At least 10 days have passed *since last positive test*.
- **Encourage not to re-test prior to 90 days after their last positive test, unless required by state guidance, or known exposure and symptomatic.**

Health Care Personnel with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 who never had any symptoms:

To remain on home isolation until 10 days have passed since the date of their last positive COVID 19 diagnostic test assuming they have not subsequently developed symptoms. If they develop symptoms, then the *protocol for symptomatic individuals* should be followed.

Encourage not to re-test prior to 90 days after their last positive test, unless known exposure or symptomatic.

- The designated Infection Preventionist for the facility may clear their HCP to return to work but must follow the Public Health clearance criteria. PH letter will not be provided.
- The Infection Preventionist must consult with Public Health before clearing its HCPs working in a facility with an ongoing outbreak.

****Exposure definition:** Close contact within six feet of an infected person for a cumulative 15 minutes or more within a 24-hour period

Note: Asymptomatic COVID-19 positive HCP can work wearing full PPE, but only with COVID-19 positive patients until clearance criteria are met.

Protocol for Health Care Personnel (HCP) in Outpatient Settings

(Health care personnel interacting with patients for medical, nursing, dental, mental health care; includes radiology/lab as well as social workers providing direct services, OT/PT/RT and pharmacists)

Exposed – Asymptomatic**

- Ten- day quarantine*
 - Twice-daily temperature check.
 - Monitor for respiratory and additional symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 (e.g., new loss of taste or smell).
 - If source patient ruled out, quarantine can be lifted.
 - If source patient tests positive, refer HCP for PCR testing if it has been at least 5-7 days since date of exposure. Ten-day quarantine still required despite a negative test if tested prior to the end of the quarantine period.
- Can work wearing a surgical mask (if allowed by employer).
- If asymptomatic, can be released from quarantine* after 12:01 AM on the 10th day.
- If HCP develops ANY symptoms, exclude from work, and refer for PCR testing unless tested within 7 days of symptom onset. (see below)

Vaccinated persons* with an exposure 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., ≥2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or ≥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 CDPH quarantine guidance after exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.

Exposed **– Symptomatic

- Exclude from work. Instruct in home isolation.
 - Twice-daily temperature check
 - Monitor for worsening respiratory or development of additional symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 (e.g., new loss of taste or smell).
- Refer for PCR testing if testing is not available at the HCF.
 - While test is pending, continue home isolation.
 - If test is negative and no longer symptomatic:
 - If source patient ruled out, discontinue isolation and clear for work.
 - If source patient is positive, complete ten-day quarantine. May return to work with a surgical mask (if allowed by employer) when completely asymptomatic and afebrile for 24 hours.
 - If test is negative, but still symptomatic, an individualized assessment for other potential diagnosis (e.g., flu) is required to determine whether repeat testing is indicated.

Positive COVID-19 Test

Symptomatic Health Care Personnel with suspected or confirmed COVID-19:

To remain on home isolation until **all** conditions are met:

- Resolution of fever for at least 24 hours, after the last fever spike, without the use of fever-reducing medication **and** improvement of symptoms. (e.g., cough, shortness of breath, sore throat).
- At least 10 days have passed *since last positive test*.
- **Encourage HCP not to retest for 90 days (unless known exposure and symptomatic).**

Health Care Personnel with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 who never had any symptoms:

- To remain on home isolation until 10 days have passed since the date of their last positive COVID 19 diagnostic tests, assuming they have not subsequently developed symptoms. If they develop symptoms, then the *protocol for symptomatic individuals* should be followed.
- **Encourage HCP not to retest for 90 days (unless known exposure and symptomatic)**

PH clearance is not required.

****Exposure definition:** Close contact within six feet of an infected person for a cumulative 15 minutes or more within a 24-hour period

Note: Asymptomatic COVID-19 positive HCP can work wearing full PPE, but only with COVID-19 positive patients until they meet criteria for clearance.