

Next Steps:

Close contacts of someone with COVID-19



If you had close contact with someone with COVID-19, get tested at least 5 days after exposure, quarantine if you are not up to date on vaccinations, and wear a well-fitting mask.

What does it mean to be a “close contact” of someone with COVID-19?

You are a close contact if **any** of the following situations happened while you spent time with the person with COVID-19 (even if they didn't have symptoms or you both were wearing masks):

- Had direct physical contact with the person (for example, a hug, kiss, handshake).
- Were within 6 feet of the person for 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.
- Had contact with the person's respiratory secretions (for example, being coughed or sneezed on, sharing a drinking glass or other personal items).
- Stayed overnight for at least one night in a household with the person.
- You cared for or live with the person who has COVID-19.

What to do after close contact:

- **Stay home and quarantine if necessary.** Do not go to work or school.
- **Wear a well-fitting mask if you have to be around others.**
- **Get tested for COVID-19 at least 5 days after close contact.**
- **Avoid travel.** Do not fly or take other public transportation including ride-shares or taxis.
- **If you live with someone with COVID-19, avoid sharing the same space within the home.** Use a different bedroom or bathroom if you can.
- **Postpone all non-essential medical appointments until your quarantine is over.**
- **Self monitor for symptoms of COVID-19.**

If you develop symptoms or test positive:

Follow these steps even if you are up to date with vaccinations.



- Isolate from other members of your household
- Get tested for COVID-19 if you haven't already.
- Tell your health care provider what your symptoms are.



Who should quarantine after close contact?

You should quarantine after close contact if you are not up to date on your COVID-19 vaccinations.

You **do not need to quarantine** after close contact if:

- You tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days with a viral test.
- You are up to date with your COVID-19 vaccines (including boosters and additional primary doses for some immunocompromised people).

If you are up to date with your COVID-19 vaccinations, you should still wear a well-fitting mask around others for 10 days after your last close contact. You should also get tested for COVID-19 at least 5 days after you last had close contact.

How long do I need to quarantine?

If you are **not up to date on COVID-19 vaccinations**, you need to quarantine for at least 5 days.

- **Stay home and away from other people for at least 5 days** after your last close contact with the person with COVID-19. Wear a well-fitting mask if you must be around others.



If you are unable to stay home and quarantine, wear a well-fitting mask for 10 days around others at home and in public.

- **Get tested at least 5 days** after your last close contact with the person with COVID-19. If you test negative or are asymptomatic after 5 days, you can end quarantine.

- **Continue to wear a well-fitting mask at home and in public for an additional 5 days.**



If you are unable to wear a mask when around others, you should stay home and quarantine for 10 full days and avoid people who are immunocompromised or at high risk for severe disease until after day 10.

What if someone in my household has symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19?

If you are unvaccinated or not up to date on your vaccinations, your quarantine must extend. All of the following criteria must be met before you can start your final 5 days of quarantine:

- At least 5 days have passed since anyone in the house has tested positive for COVID-19 or began having COVID-19 symptoms.
- Anyone who had symptoms or tested positive was able to wear a well-fitting mask around others in the house; or at least 10 days have passed since their symptoms began or the day of their positive test (if asymptomatic)
- Anyone who developed symptoms is improving and has been fever free without the use of fever-reducing medications for at least 24 hours.

Resources

- Learn more about quarantine: dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/close-contacts.htm
- Find information on COVID-19 testing: dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/testing.htm

