

HEALTH ADVISORY: COVID-19 Public Health Recommendations for Vaccinated Persons March 31, 2021

Background

The United States and Texas are experiencing widespread transmission of the novel coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, which causes the disease COVID-19. This alert provides updated public health recommendations for vaccinated persons. While mRNA COVID-19 vaccines have demonstrated high efficacy at preventing severe and symptomatic COVID-19, there is currently limited information on how much the vaccines might reduce transmission and how long protection lasts. In addition, the efficacy of the vaccines against emerging SARS-CoV-2 variants is not known. At this time, vaccinated persons should continue to follow current guidance to protect themselves and others, including wearing a mask, staying at least 6 feet away from others, avoiding crowds, avoiding poorly ventilated spaces, covering coughs and sneezes, washing hands often, following CDC travel guidance, and following any applicable workplace or school guidance, including guidance related to personal protective equipment use or SARS-CoV-2 testing.

Recommendations for Isolation, Quarantine and Testing for Individuals in a Non-Healthcare Setting

Isolation

Although the risk that fully vaccinated people could become infected with COVID-19 is low, any fully vaccinated person who experiences symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should isolate themselves from others, be clinically evaluated for COVID-19, and tested for SARS-CoV-2 if indicated. The symptomatic fully vaccinated person should inform their healthcare provider of their vaccination status at the time of presentation to care.

Quarantine of Completely Vaccinated Individuals

Fully vaccinated people with no COVID-like symptoms do not need to quarantine or be tested following an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19, as their risk of infection is low.

Fully vaccinated people who do not quarantine should still monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days following an exposure. If they experience symptoms, they should isolate themselves from others, be clinically evaluated for COVID-19, including SARS-CoV-2 testing, if indicated, and inform their health care provider of their vaccination status at the time of presentation to care.

Vaccinated healthcare personnel, patients, and residents in healthcare settings

These criteria could also be applied when considering work restrictions for fully vaccinated healthcare personnel with higher-risk exposures, as a strategy to alleviate staffing shortages. Of note, exposed healthcare personnel would not be required to quarantine outside of work.

Reporting of COVID Infection after Full Vaccination

Providers are asked to report to Metro Health any cases where COVID infection occurs more than two weeks after receiving the two-dose vaccine series. PCR testing is recommended for individuals that have been vaccinated against COVID.

For questions or to report a suspected case, please contact:

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