

Updated Guidelines on Quarantine, Isolation and Testing for Covid 19 Response and Case Management for the Omicron Variant

January 14, 2022

A. Isolation of Individuals with Symptoms and Suspect, Probable and Confirmed Cases		
Individual Category	Isolation Period	Discontinuation of Isolation
1. Asymptomatic and Fully Vaccinated	7 days from <u>sample collection date</u>	Isolation can be discontinued <u>without the need for repeat testing</u> , provided they have remained asymptomatic during the whole recommended isolation period.
2. Asymptomatic and Partially Vaccinated or Unvaccinated	10 days from <u>sample collection date</u>	Isolation can be discontinued <u>without the need for repeat testing</u> , provided they have remained asymptomatic during the whole recommended isolation period.
3. Mild Symptoms and Fully Vaccinated	7 days from <u>onset of signs and symptoms</u>	Isolation can be discontinued <u>without the need for repeat testing</u> upon completion of the recommended isolation period, provided, that they do not have fever for at least 24 hours without the use of any antipyretic medications and shall have improvement of respiratory signs and symptoms.
4. Mild Symptoms and Partially Vaccinated or Unvaccinated	10 days from <u>onset of signs and symptoms</u>	Isolation can be discontinued <u>without the need for repeat testing</u> upon completion of the recommended isolation period, provided, that they do not have fever for at least 24 hours without the use of any antipyretic medications and shall have improvement of respiratory signs and symptoms.
5. Moderate Symptoms regardless of Vaccination Status	10 days from <u>onset of signs and symptoms</u>	Isolation can be discontinued <u>without the need for repeat testing</u> upon completion of the recommended isolation period, provided, that they do not have fever for at least 24 hours without the use of any antipyretic medications and shall have improvement of respiratory signs and symptoms.
6. Severe and Critical Symptoms regardless of Vaccination Status	21 days from <u>onset of signs and symptoms</u>	Isolation can be discontinued <u>without the need for repeat testing</u> upon completion of the recommended isolation

		period, provided, that they do not have fever for at least 24 hours without the use of any antipyretic medications, and shall have improvement of respiratory signs and symptoms.
7. Symptomatic, Immunocompromised regardless of Vaccination Status	21 days from <u>onset of signs and symptoms</u>	Isolation can be discontinued upon completion of the recommended isolation period, provided, that they do not have fever for at least 24 hours without the use of any antipyretic medications and shall have improvement of respiratory signs and symptoms. <u>Repeat RT-PCR testing shall also be recommended</u> for this group. If results turn out negative, they may be discharged from isolation. If results turn out positive, refer to an Infectious Disease Specialist who may issue clearance and discharge if warranted.

- **Repeat testing nor medical certification is not required** for the safe reintegration into the community, except for immunocompromised individuals. Time based isolation is sufficient provided the affected individual remains asymptomatic.

B. Quarantine of Asymptomatic Close Contacts		
Individual Category	Quarantine Period	Discontinuation of Quarantine
1. Asymptomatic and Fully Vaccinated	5 days from the <u>date of last exposure</u>	Quarantine can be discontinued at the end of the set quarantine period, if they have remained asymptomatic during the whole recommended quarantine period regardless if testing has been done and tested negative.
2. Asymptomatic and Partially Vaccinated or Unvaccinated	14 days from <u>date of last exposure</u>	Quarantine can be discontinued at the end of the set quarantine period, if they have remained asymptomatic during the whole recommended quarantine period regardless if testing has been done and tested negative.

- All asymptomatic close contacts shall not be required testing unless symptoms will develop and should immediately isolate regardless of test results.

- **All asymptomatic close contacts shall conduct symptom monitoring for at least 14 days**, regardless of shortened quarantine period. They shall strictly observe minimum public health standards, including physical distancing, hand hygiene, cough etiquette, and wearing of masks, among others, regardless of vaccination status.

C. Testing Prioritization

1. Testing, especially using RT-PCR, shall be recommended, and prioritized for instances where the result of testing will affect the clinical management. Specifically, this will include those who are at risk for developing severe disease such as Priority Groups A2 (persons above 60 years old) and A3 (persons with comorbidities).
2. Testing, especially using RT-PCR, shall also be recommended, and prioritized for groups at highest risk for infection such as Priority Group A1 or healthcare workers as deemed necessary.
3. Testing using Antigen tests shall be recommended only for symptomatic individuals and in instances wherein RT-PCR is not available, consistent with previously issued guidelines.
4. Testing shall be optional for other groups not stated above, including for community level actions wherein case management of probable and confirmed cases remain the same. Specifically:
 - a. **Testing shall NOT be recommended for asymptomatic close contacts.** Instead, symptom monitoring is recommended. Should testing still be used, testing should be done at least 5 days from the day of last exposure.
 - b. **Testing shall NOT be recommended for screening asymptomatic individuals.**

Source: Department of Health, Department Memorandum 2022-0013 *Updated Guidelines on Quarantine, Isolation and Testing for Covid 19 Response and Case Management for the Omicron Variant*. January 14, 2022.