

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Ron DeSantis
Governor

Scott A. Rivkees, MD
State Surgeon General

Vision: To be the **Healthiest State** in the Nation

MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 4, 2020

TO: CHD Health Officers, Primary CHD Epidemiologists

THROUGH: County Health Systems

FROM: Carina Blackmore, DVM, PhD, Dipl ACVPM
Director,
Division Disease Control and Health Protection

SUBJECT: Applicability of Updated Quarantine Guidance

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released a scientific brief that provides options to reduce quarantine time frames. While a 14-day quarantine is the current recommendation of the CDC, there are some additional options for asymptomatic close contacts to end quarantine earlier than 14 days. As a reminder, close contacts are those individuals who have been within six feet of an infected individual for a cumulative of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period, regardless of mask usage.

1. If an asymptomatic close contact gets tested by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test on Day 6 or later and receives a negative result, then they may end quarantine after completion of Day 7.
2. Without testing, an asymptomatic close contact may end quarantine after completion of Day 10.

In both scenarios, individuals are to be counseled to adhere strictly to public health mitigation through Day 14, including correct and consistent use of a face mask, social distancing, hand hygiene, avoiding close contact and crowds, and self-monitoring for symptoms.

Close contacts who develop symptoms within the 14 days should seek medical care and testing. Close contacts who test positive for COVID-19 are considered a case and should isolate for at least 10 days from symptom onset. COVID-19 positive cases should stay separated from household members to the greatest extent possible, including using a separate bedroom and bathroom, if possible.

Please note that close contacts connected to health care or other long-term care facility settings with medically vulnerable populations (e.g., long-term care facilities, assisted living facilities, nursing homes, acute care hospitals) and other settings may not end quarantine prior to the 14-day time period.

Florida Department of Health is implementing these guidelines effective immediately.

For more information, please visit the CDC's Web page at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/more/scientific-brief-options-to-reduce-quarantine.html.