Alameda County Health Advisory

Interim Quarantine Guidance for Vaccinated Health Care Personnel

February 22, 2021

CDC has recently released additional quarantine guidance for persons fully vaccinated against COVID-19. 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 without symptoms since the current COVID-19 exposure.

The Alameda County Public Health Department (ACPHD) has updated Health Officer Order 20-06 (Blanket Isolation/Quarantine Order) to align with CDC recommendations.

The purpose of this interim guidance is to clarify options available to fully vaccinated Health Care Personnel (HCP) who have had close contact or a high-risk exposure with someone with a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection. This guidance is subject to change as more information on vaccinated individuals becomes available.

1. Fully vaccinated HCP with a high-risk exposure within a healthcare setting, or close contact with a known case in the community, do not need to quarantine, but may be excluded from work.

2. If asymptomatic fully vaccinated HCP have a high-risk exposure, including an exposure outside of the health care setting, AND the facility is not experiencing a staffing shortage, facilities should consider excluding the HCP from work for 10 days after the exposure (defined as Day 0), with continued symptom monitoring through Day 14.
   - Consider excluding HCP who have routine close contact with people at high risk of severe disease (e.g., severely immune-suppressed patients), or who live or work in congregate settings (e.g., long term care), for 14 days after exposure.

3. If the facility is experiencing a staffing shortage, the facility should prioritize shortening or forgoing work exclusions for asymptomatic fully vaccinated HCP over unvaccinated HCP—unvaccinated HCP should be the last to return to work before the ACPHD criteria to end quarantine have been met. Refer to the CDC Strategies to Mitigate Healthcare Personnel Staffing Shortages for more detailed guidance.
4. Guidance for unvaccinated HCP has not changed—in most cases unvaccinated HCP should quarantine for 10-14 days following a high-risk exposure within the healthcare setting, or close contact with a known case in the community.

Resources

ACPHD- Health Officer Order 20-06
ACPHD- How Long Should I Stay in Quarantine?
CDC- Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Authorized in the US

Contact Information

Alameda County Acute Communicable Disease Control:
- Weekdays 8:30AM – 5PM Phone: (510) 267–3250
- After-Hours Phone: (925) 422–7595 and ask for the public health duty officer on call

Berkeley Public Health Division:
- Weekdays 8AM – 5PM Phone: (510) 981–5292
- After-Hours Phone: (510) 981–5911 and ask for the Health Officer on call