



## **Close Contact Quarantine FAQ**

### **Executive Order 20-104**

**December 28, 2020**

#### **Who does this Executive Order apply to?**

Anyone who has been in close contact with someone with COVID-19. Close contact means you've been within 6 feet of someone with COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more in a 24-hour period. Learn more about quarantine and isolation at [health.ri.gov/covid/whattodo](https://health.ri.gov/covid/whattodo).

#### **What is a congregate care setting?**

For purposes of close contact quarantine, a congregate care setting is a nursing home or assisted living facility. This Executive Order does not apply to settings such as group homes and prisons.

#### **Does RIDOH recommend one quarantine approach over another?**

No.

#### **What type of test is eligible for testing to reduce the length of quarantine?**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends a PCR or antigen test, but currently all testing methods will be accepted to reduce the length of quarantine.

#### **Do the new quarantine options apply to people who have traveled out of state or out of the county?**

No. The Executive Order regarding quarantine after returning from domestic and international travel remains in place. Learn more at [health.ri.gov/covid/travel](https://health.ri.gov/covid/travel).

#### **If I live with someone who tested positive, can I now quarantine for fewer than 24 days?**

Yes. If you are able to stay separate from the sick person, quarantine for 7 to 10 days from the last close contact. If you are not able to stay separate from the sick person, quarantine while the person is in isolation plus an additional 7 to 10 days, for a total of 17 to 20 days. When RIDOH calls the person who tested positive, they will give them the exact dates of quarantine for household members. Learn more at [health.ri.gov/covid/whattodo](https://health.ri.gov/covid/whattodo).

**Does someone who works at a nursing home or assisted living facility have to quarantine for 14 days?**

No. The mandatory 14-day quarantine requirement only applies to people who live in nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

**Why does someone living in a nursing home or assisted living facility that has a negative result from a COVID-19 test taken at least 5 days after close contact with someone with COVID-19 still have to quarantine for 14 days?**

Many people living in nursing homes and assisted living facilities are at high risk for severe illness with COVID-19. To control the spread of the virus in those facilities, it's safest to have residents quarantine for the full 14 days.

**My mother, who is in hospice, is a close contact of someone diagnosed with COVID-19 and is in quarantine for the next 13 days. She might die at any moment. Can I visit with her?**

Yes. Nursing home and assisted living facilities should allow compassionate care visits at all levels of visitor restrictions. This includes, but is not limited to, end-of-life situations. Wear a mask and watch your distance any time you're near people you don't live with, indoors and outdoors.

**I operate a business, such as a child care facility, nursing home, funeral home, or another private business. Can I require my staff to quarantine for more than 7 days even if they get a negative result from a test taken at least 5 days after the close contact?**

Yes. Employers may require employees to quarantine for longer than the shortest quarantine option in the Executive Order.

**Can I offer a shorter quarantine period for my staff but require children attending my child care and their parents to wait for 10 days before returning to child care?**

Yes, as long as staff comply with the Executive Order.

**If one person in a classroom or stable pod has been in close contact with someone with COVID-19, does everyone in that group have to quarantine?**

Quarantine is only required for people who have been in close contact with someone with COVID-19.