



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.

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.

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.

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.