



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. BOX 3378
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

February 11, 2021

**MEDICAL ADVISORY #20—CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19):
QUARANTINE GUIDANCE FOR VACCINATED PERSONS FOLLOWING EXPOSURE TO COVID-19**

Dear Healthcare Provider:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently released updated guidance regarding quarantine for vaccinated persons with an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19. Based on review of this guidance, the Hawaii Department of Health recommends:

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 with a COVID-19 vaccine authorized for emergency use in the United States by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) according to a schedule recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), and are at least 14 days beyond completion of the vaccine series as of their earliest date of exposure
- Are within 3 months following receipt of the last dose in the series
- Have remained asymptomatic since the current COVID-19 exposure.

Persons who do not meet ALL three of the above criteria should continue to follow [current quarantine guidance](#) after exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.

***EXCEPTION:** Vaccinated inpatients and residents in healthcare and other congregate care settings should continue to quarantine following an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19, due to unknown vaccine effectiveness in this population, higher risk of severe disease and death, and challenges with social distancing in healthcare settings. Both inpatients and outpatients should continue to be cared for using appropriate [transmission-based precautions](#), based on community transmission levels and anticipated exposures.

Healthcare personnel: The above criteria could also be applied when considering work restrictions for fully vaccinated healthcare personnel with [higher-risk exposures](#), as a strategy to alleviate staffing shortages. Of note, exposed healthcare personnel would not be required to quarantine outside of work.

Fully vaccinated persons who do not quarantine should still watch for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days following an exposure. If they experience symptoms, they should be clinically evaluated for COVID-19, including SARS-CoV-2 testing, if indicated. In addition,

vaccinated persons should continue to follow current guidance to protect themselves and others, including wearing a mask, staying at least 6 feet away from others, avoiding crowds, avoiding poorly ventilated spaces, covering coughs and sneezes, and washing hands often.

This advisory does NOT modify any travel quarantine proclamations related to the COVID-19 Emergency.

This advisory also does not alter surveillance testing requirements established for long term care settings by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

For further information, including guidance on vaccine administration errors, please visit the CDC’s Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Authorized in the United States at <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/clinical-considerations.html>

Information and guidance on COVID-19 continues to evolve. To ensure you are accessing the latest information, please visit [HDOH’s COVID-19 webpage](#) or [CDC’s COVID-19 website](#). If you have any questions or need to report a patient with suspected/confirmed COVID-19, please contact us at one of the numbers below.

- Oahu (Disease Reporting Line)..... (808) 586-4586
- Maui District Health Office..... (808) 984-8213
- Kauai District Health Office..... (808) 241-3563
- Big Island District Health Office (Hilo)..... (808) 933-0912
- Big Island District Health Office (Kona)..... (808) 322-4877
- After hours on Oahu..... (808) 600-3625
- After hours on neighbor islands.....(800) 360-2575 (toll free)

We appreciate your partnership to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our communities.

Sincerely,

Sarah Kemble, MD
Acting State Epidemiologist