



Chester County Health Department

Coronavirus COVID-19

Quarantine Guidance

Issued: December 11, 2020 | Effective: December 14, 2020

Currently, individuals who are close contacts of individuals with COVID-19, or have traveled and not received a negative test result, are required to quarantine. The use and adherence to quarantine requirements continues to be a strong public health measure to mitigate COVID-19. Quarantining individuals breaks the transmission cycle by limiting exposure to other individuals. Therefore, the Chester County Health Department continues to recommend 14 day quarantine period as the most protective quarantine period for everyone. The Chester County Health Department recognizes the following quarantine periods as acceptable alternatives when adherence to the 14 day period is truly not possible. The alternatives only apply to individuals in quarantine. Individuals who are a confirmed and probable case of COVID-19 are still required to follow the 10 day isolation requirement.

The following alternative quarantine periods do **NOT** apply to individuals who work at, or live in, healthcare or congregate settings to include hospitals, healthcare practices/offices, long-term care facilities, correctional facilities, clinics of all sizes, shelters, group homes, EMS, etc.

Employers and organizations, including daycare/childcare centers, public/non-public schools, and colleges/universities must determine if they will support alternative quarantine periods for their employees, those doing business with them, or receiving services from them. Employers and organizations selecting to use alternative quarantine periods as outlined below must continue symptom monitoring for the full 14 days, and must continue strict adherence to all existing local and state mandates and guidance (e.g., masking, physical distancing). Employers and organizations are recommended to consult their solicitor or legal counsel regarding any policies, procedures or protocols for requirements which may need to be in place regarding proof of negative test result and date of test when using alternative quarantine periods. Additionally, employers and organizations should update their employee and visitor screening protocol if using the alternative quarantine protocols.

Alternative quarantine periods:

- Quarantine can end after day 10 without testing if an individual remains asymptomatic through the end of day 10.
- Quarantine can end after day 7 if a diagnostic specimen (e.g., RT-PCR, antigen) tests negative and is collected on day 5 or thereafter, and the person remains asymptomatic until the test result is received.

Quarantine begins after the date of last exposure (day 0) to a person with COVID-19. At no time can quarantine be discontinued before the end of day 7 even if a negative COVID-19 test result is received prior to the end of day 7.



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Chester County Health Department will support PA Department of Health's evaluation of these alternatives in terms of compliance with quarantine and contact tracing activities, but also for any potential negative impacts such as post-quarantine transmission.

Chester County Health Department continues to recommend that COVID-19 testing be prioritized for symptomatic persons seeking evaluation for COVID-19 infection ahead of testing being used to end of quarantine earlier than the 14 days.

Additional Information:

- PA Department of Health Advisory: [Updated Quarantine Recommendations for Persons Exposed to COVID-19](#).
- CDC: [When to Quarantine](#)