



Flathead City-County Health Department

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Population Health Services
406-751-8101 FAX 406-758-2497
WIC Services
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Animal Shelter
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Memorandum

January 3, 2022

To: Flathead County School Superintendents for Distribution

From: Joe Russell, Flathead County Health Officer

Re: Updated COVID-19 Isolation and Quarantine Guidance

On December 27, 2021, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) made significant changes to the isolation and quarantine periods established for COVID-19. The Flathead City-County Health Department will adopt this guidance effective immediately. The following will summarize what you should expect from the Health Department.

Isolation

A five-day, stay at home isolation period is required for all people that test positive for COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status. The isolation period will commence at the onset of symptoms or a positive test result. As an example, if you feel symptoms of COVID-19 on Tuesday and your first test on Wednesday is positive, your first day of isolation is Tuesday and stay at home quarantine will end after Saturday. We strongly encourage the use of a properly fitted mask for five days following the end of the stay at home isolation. Although we encourage the use of the at-home rapid antigen test, they are not considered confirmatory of COVID-19. A positive at-home test will be factored into the isolation period as long as it is followed by a positive school-based test or a positive test administered by a health care provider.

Quarantine

How quarantine will be implemented will be based on vaccination status and previous COVID-19 illness. An exposed person with a lab-identified case of COVID-19 within the past 90 days will not be advised to quarantine. Individuals that have had two doses of Pfizer or Moderna within the past six months, individuals with one dose of Johnson and Johnson administered within the past two months, or anyone that has received a third dose/booster should follow CDC guidance and forgo the stay at home quarantine. Individuals in this category are considered to have high immune status and are only advised to wear a mask for ten days and test on day five past exposure. If you develop symptoms please stay at home and test as soon as possible.

Individuals that completed their two-dose series of Pfizer or Moderna over six months ago and have not received a booster, a single dose of Johnson and Johnson over two months ago and are not boosted, and anyone not vaccinated shall be advised to stay at home (quarantine) for five days since their last exposure to a COVID-19 case. It is advised to wear a properly fitted mask after the quarantine period on days six through ten. Testing on day five is encouraged. If you develop symptoms please stay at home and test as soon as possible.



Providing quality public health services to ensure the conditions for a healthy community.



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