

## Jefferson County Public Health COVID-19 Business Guidance

*February 22, 2022*

**Jefferson County Public Health (JCPH) continues to recommend that the best protection against severe complications from COVID-19 is to get vaccinated AND received a booster dose if you are eligible.** Please assist JCPH in continuing to share this message and encourage your entire staff to get vaccinated and boosted if eligible. **Mask wearing is also an integral component to help suppress transmission of COVID-19** and other infectious respiratory diseases.

- These guidelines were developed to support businesses in prevention of communicable disease transmission following the rescinding of Jefferson County PHO 21-006.
- JCPH has provided businesses with an option related to quarantine so they can adopt what is best for their environment.
- Reducing risk for COVID transmission in business settings is a shared responsibility between the employer and employees.
- Maintain clear communication with staff about COVID-19 cases in your facility to help them make individual choices on mask use and quarantine.
- Promote and maintain a supportive environment for staff who continue to wear masks as a personal choice and those that do not.
- While mask use is no longer mandated, they are still recommended by the CDC and CDPHE as a measure to reduce the risk of transmission. JCPH endorses this guidance especially in circumstances when a person chooses to wear one or in facilities that choose to continue to require mask use. Persons who are at higher risk for severe outcomes from COVID-19 infection or persons otherwise concerned about being exposed to COVID-19 are especially encouraged to wear a well-fitted mask as well when indoors.
- Mask use is still required on public transportation (e.g., RTD) by federal rule.
- JCPH requires that the business setting must notify JCPH of positive COVID-19 cases and outbreaks (see below for definition of a COVID-19 outbreak).
- JCPH may require additional mitigation measures when there is evidence of uncontrolled transmission or for investigations that require more stringent control measures.

### Vaccination Statistics:

- As of 2/4/22, 44% of the total population is up to date on vaccines, 28% is booster eligible, and 28% is unvaccinated (6% of which is ineligible due to being >5 years of age).
- People who have received boosters are 2.3 times less likely to be a COVID-19 case compared to unvaccinated people.
- People who have received boosters are 10.3 times less likely to be hospitalized for COVID-19 compared to unvaccinated people.
- People who received boosters are 55.1 times less likely to die compared to unvaccinated people.

**JCPH COVID-19 Protocol for Isolation (REQUIRED)**

**Isolation Definition:**

Isolation is required pursuant to the legal authority set forth in C.R.S § 25-1.5-102(1) and § 25-1-506(3)(b). The terms of the requirement are set forth by the CDC and CDPHE:

- [Isolation](#) is for those who have tested positive using any diagnostic COVID-19 test for COVID-19 or developed symptoms after a COVID-19 exposure.
  - Those required to isolate **must** do so for a minimum of 5 days. Day 0 is considered the date of either symptom onset or the date of the positive test collection.
  - Earliest eligible return is on day 6 if the person has been fever-free for 24 hours (without the use of fever reducing medication) and there has been significant improvement of symptoms.
  - JCPH strongly recommends wearing a well-fitted mask for persons ages 3 and older for an additional 5 days.
  - Administer a diagnostic COVID-19 test: a test that detects a current COVID-19 infection. These tests include PCR , rapid molecular, and antigen tests. Serology (antibody) tests can check for evidence of past infection or vaccination but cannot tell if a person currently has COVID-19 and are therefore not considered diagnostic tests.
  - JCPH requires that all businesses must notify JCPH of positive COVID-19 cases.

**JCPH COVID-19 Protocol for Quarantine (SEE DEFINITIONS)**

**Quarantine Guidance Definitions:**

JCPH provides businesses with recommendations to help reduce the risk of transmission in their facility. Businesses have the option to use the guidance based on the facility's assessment of the setting in which cases are occurring. There are certain instances of required quarantine detailed below.

**Quarantine Definition:**

- Quarantine can be required pursuant to the legal authority set forth in C.R.S § 25-1.5-102(1) and § 25-1-506(3)(b). The terms of the requirement are set forth by the CDC and CDPHE:
  - [Quarantine](#) is for close contacts of a person who has tested positive for COVID-19.
    - Those required to quarantine must do so for 5 full days. Day 0 is considered the day of the final exposure to a positive case. Quarantined people can return to routine activities on the 6th day if they have stayed symptom free but should continue to wear a mask for an additional 5 full days when around non-household members.
    - Close contacts in a business setting are defined as being within 6 feet of a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 for a cumulative 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period during the positive cases' infectious period regardless of mask use.
    - Household contacts: Household exposures often mean that the remaining members of the household are continuously exposed to the virus during the entire isolation period. The unvaccinated household members cannot start their quarantine until the isolation period has ended for all positive household members.
    - See below for definition of exemption of quarantine criteria as defined by CDC and CDPHE.

**Quarantine for persons who meet criteria as a close contact from an exposure in a business setting:**

JCPH recommends:

Regardless of whether quarantine is instituted, encourage testing at least once during the first 5-days after the exposure, watch for symptoms, and if symptoms develop the person should stay home and continue getting tested.

- 5-day quarantine for persons who are a close contact to someone with COVID-19 AND do not meet the criteria for no quarantine.
- Wear a well-fitted mask for persons ages 3 years and older for 10 days after the exposure when you are within the business setting.

**Quarantine for persons who meet criteria as a close contact from an exposure in a business setting in an outbreak:**

JCPH requires:

- JCPH continues to require that all businesses must notify JCPH of positive COVID-19 cases and outbreaks (see below for definition of a COVID-19 outbreak).
  - 5-day quarantine for persons who are a close contact to someone with COVID-19, unless the person meets quarantine exemption criteria.
  - JCPH recommends that persons ages 3 years and older wear a well-fitted mask for 10 days after the exposure when you are indoors, if not required to quarantine.
  - Encourage testing at least once during the first 5-days after the exposure.
  - Watch for symptoms. If symptoms develop, stay home, and get tested.

**If an exposed person meets any of these criteria below, then no quarantine is required per CDC and CDPHE definitions:**

- Is age 12+ years and is up to date on all recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses (including a booster dose if 5+ months after mRNA vaccines or 2+ months after Johnson & Johnson vaccine), Or
- Had a positive COVID-19 test (documented PCR or antigen test) in past 90 days, Or
- Participating in a continual weekly screening testing program and will continue to participate for at least 2 additional weeks.

*Note: Recommendations for testing, symptom monitoring, and mask use remain the same.*

**Out-of-business setting exposure:**

For persons who meet criteria as a close contact from an exposure outside the business setting, continue to follow guidance for the general public. These persons are recommended to quarantine for 5-days unless they meet the criteria for no quarantine; watch for symptoms; get tested during the 5-days after the exposure; and wear a well-fitted mask for persons ages 3 years and older for 10 days after the exposure when you are within the business setting.

**JCPH Best Practice Recommendations for Business Settings:**

- Continue to communicate messaging on staying home when sick and ensure compliance with facility illness exclusion policies.
- Promote employees get vaccinated against COVID-19 and provide opportunities for employees to get vaccinated.
- Promote handwashing.
- While mask use is no longer mandated, they are still recommended by the CDC and CDPHE as a measure to reduce the risk of transmission in business settings. JCPH endorses this guidance especially in circumstances when a person chooses to wear one or in facilities that choose to continue to require mask use. Persons who are at higher risk for severe outcomes from COVID-19 infection or persons otherwise concerned about being exposed to COVID-19 are especially encouraged to wear a well-fitted mask as well when indoors.
- Cohort groups of people to the greatest extent possible.
- Consider implementing a COVID-19 symptom screening protocol, to include temperature checks, before entering the building.
- Consider increase ventilation in spaces to the maximum extent possible.
  - Work with facilities staff to ensure that the building's HVAC system is cycling at least 6 times per hour.
  - Utilize a [Box Fan Air Filter](#).
- Social Distancing: 6ft is the preferred distancing due to highly transmissible nature of omicron.
- Testing on day 5 after exposure before returning to the business setting.
- Any questions or concerns about returning to the business setting with any illness symptoms, consult your health care provider.
- Plan for remote work in the event that a high number of staff are out with illness, and the business cannot operate safely.

**JCPH Best Practice Recommendations for High-Risk Individuals in Business Settings:**

- While mask use is no longer mandated, they are still recommended by the CDC and CDPHE as a measure to reduce the risk of transmission in business settings. JCPH endorses this guidance especially in circumstances when a person chooses to wear one or in facilities that choose to continue to require mask use. Persons who are at higher risk for severe outcomes from COVID-19 infection or persons otherwise concerned about being exposed to COVID-19 are especially encouraged to wear a well-fitted mask as well when indoors.
- Be up to date on the COVID-19 vaccination.
- Utilize a tight-fitting face mask such as a N95.
- Strong adherence to personal hygiene, to include frequent hand washing breaks and use of an alcohol base hand sanitizer where appropriate.
- Maximize spacing for social distancing.
- Allow high risk individuals to eat lunch in a location that allows for maximum spacing and air flow.
- Continue to use all best practices and required protocols for COVID-19 mitigation.
- Contact JCPH for an individualized consultation with JCPH's infectious disease epidemiologist team.
- Suggest that staff consult with primary care physicians for individual risk assessments.
- Support individual families and staff who may choose a 10-day isolation or extended quarantine based upon their individual risks and comfort level.
- Remind individuals that these recommendations should be adhered both inside and outside of the business setting.

**Outbreaks in Business Setting:**

- Confirmed COVID-19 outbreak for all settings/events unless otherwise stated under special settings: Five or more confirmed or probable cases of COVID-19, of which at least one case has had a positive molecular amplification test or antigen test performed by a CLIA-certified provider, in a facility or (non-household) group with onset in a 14-day period.
- Closure, universal masking, and revised quarantine recommendations will be reviewed by JCPH and businesses on an individual basis in the event of an outbreak

**Useful Links:**

- [Isolation and Quarantine](#)
- [Best Practices for Workplaces](#)
- [JCPH Testing Information](#)
- [Disinfectants for COVID-19](#)
- [JCPH Vaccination Clinics](#)