

## Jefferson County Public Health COVID-19 Business Guidance

August 15, 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. It is important that all individuals in a business setting understand their own risk and understand the steps to take to protect themselves and others. Though this guidance is written for COVID-19, many of the layered mitigation measures can also help to prevent the spread of other infectious diseases.

### 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 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 aged 3 and older for days 6-10 OR use two negative antigen tests to determine when to end mask use. It is also strongly recommended to avoid those at high risk of getting severely ill with a COVID-19 infection.
  - Diagnostic COVID-19 test: a test that detects a current COVID-19 infection. These tests include PCR, rapid molecular, and antigen tests. A serology (antibody) test can check for evidence of past infection or evidence of a COVID-19 vaccination but cannot tell if a person currently has a COVID-19 infection, therefore a serology test is not considered a diagnostic test.
  - CDPHE requires that the business setting must notify JCPH of positive COVID-19 cases.

#### **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 (proctored or over-the-counter/home tests), in a facility or (non-household) group with onset in a 14-day period.

The JCPH Infectious Disease Epidemiology program will assess outbreak status and mitigation measures in collaboration with businesses.

**JCPH Best Practice Recommendations for Business Settings (to be applied by businesses under their discretion based upon CDC Community Levels and rates of COVID-19 within the business):**

- 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.
- Strong adherence to personal hygiene, to include frequent hand washing breaks and use of an alcohol base hand sanitizer where appropriate.
- 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/hr.
  - Utilize a [Box Fan Air Filter](#).
- Encourage testing on day 6 after a known expose.
- Notify impacted divisions/departments of increases in cases or outbreaks.
- 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 after an exposure to COVID-19. 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. JCPH encourages the use of the CDC community levels as a guide for masking decisions.
- Utilize the CDC [workplaces and businesses guidance](#) and [CDC Specific Industries and Occupations](#) as applicable.

**JCPH Best Practice Recommendations for High-Risk Individuals in Business Settings (to be applied by businesses under their discretion based upon CDC Community Levels and rates of COVID-19 within the business):**

- Be up to date on the COVID-19 vaccination.
- Both parties utilize a tight-fitting face mask, such as a KN95 or N95, when in close contact or in situations where 1:1 meeting is occurring.
- Allow high risk individuals to take meal breaks 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 Epidemiology Program.
- Suggest that staff consult with primary care physicians for individual risk assessments.
- Support individual families and staff who may choose a 10-day isolation based upon their individual risks and comfort level.
- Remind individuals that these recommendations should be adhered both in and outside of the business setting.

**JCPH Mitigation Guidance Using CDC COVID-19 Community Level (to be applied by businesses under their discretion based upon CDC Community Levels and rates of COVID-19 within the business):**

JCPH encourages facilities usage of CDC’s COVID-19 Community Levels and corresponding recommendations to aid in selection of COVID-19 mitigation strategies.

*Note: Facilities experiencing a COVID-19 outbreak should implement additional mitigation measures regardless of the COVID-19 Community Level.*

**COVID-19 Community Levels and Associated Prevention Strategies:**

CDC’s [COVID-19 Community Levels](#) help communities and individuals make decisions on what COVID-19 prevention strategies to use based on whether their community is classified as low, medium, or high. These levels factor in a combination of COVID-19 hospitalization rates, healthcare burden, and COVID-19 cases. Facilities should follow guidance based on the COVID-19 Community Level of the community in which they are located.

COVID-19 Community Levels - Use the Highest Level that Applies to Your Community				
New COVID-19 Cases				
Per 100,000 people in the past 7 days	Indicators	Low	Medium	High
Fewer than 200	New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)	<10.0	10.0-19.9	≥20.0
	Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)	<10.0%	10.0-14.9%	≥15.0%
200 or more	New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)	NA	<10.0	≥10.0
	Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)	NA	<10.0%	≥10.0%

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/community-levels.html>

When the COVID-19 Community Level indicates an increase, particularly if the level is medium or high, and/or they are experiencing an outbreak, facilities should consider adding layered prevention strategies, described in the links below. Facilities may choose to add layered prevention strategies at any COVID-19 Community Level, based on local or facility needs.

**Useful Links:**

- [Isolation](#)
- [CDPHE: Guidance for Businesses & Communities](#)
- [JCPH Testing Information](#)
- [Disinfectants for COVID-19](#)
- [JCPH Vaccination Clinics](#)