



Scott County Health Department

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Recommendations for COVID-19 Positive Cases & Close Contacts

Updated 9/21/2021

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) announced on July 1, 2021 that routine case follow-up is no longer being conducted for individual cases of COVID-19. IDPH's Epi Manual provides the latest recommendations for controlling further spread of coronavirus and preventing disease. Recommendations for handling positive cases and contacts (vaccinated and unvaccinated) are summarized in this document. The Scott County Health Department (SCHD) encourages implementation of these recommendations in order to slow the spread of virus in the community; however, these recommendations cannot be enforced by SCHD.

UNvaccinated Individuals

If someone is not vaccinated and is experiencing symptoms, should they be tested for COVID-19?

Yes, anyone experiencing symptoms should be tested for COVID-19. It is recommended that the individual remain home until receiving their test results.

If someone is unvaccinated and tests positive for COVID-19, should they stay home?

Public health recommends persons who test positive to stay home until they are no longer infectious:

- At least 10 days since symptoms first appeared AND,
- At least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication AND,
- Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving.

If someone is unvaccinated and was a close contact to someone who was positive, do they need to stay home?

Close contact is defined as being less than 6 feet away from an infectious person for more than 15 consecutive minutes up to 2 days before the individual started showing symptoms or tested positive (if no symptoms) AND at least one person was not masked during the interaction.

It is recommended that unvaccinated persons who are exposed but remain healthy (no symptoms) are advised to stay home to monitor for symptoms. This approach can help to reduce the risk of spread to other people, especially vulnerable populations. Individuals exposed to COVID-19 may develop symptoms from 2-14 days after exposure.

However, exposed individuals can reduce the length of time they are recommended to stay home from 14 days via the following options:

- Stay home through Day 10 if no symptoms have developed.
- Stay home through Day 7 if the exposed person tests negative and no symptoms have developed. The specimen must be collected within 48 hours before leaving the home (i.e. not earlier than Day 5).

In all cases, the individual should continue to monitor for symptoms and are recommended to wear a mask when around others through Day 14 in order to minimize risk of spread.



Vaccinated Individuals

If someone is vaccinated and is experiencing symptoms, should they be tested for COVID-19?

Yes, anyone experiencing symptoms should be tested for COVID-19. It is recommended that the individual remain home until receiving their test results.

If someone is vaccinated and tests positive for COVID-19, should they stay home?

Public health recommends persons who test positive to stay home until they are no longer infectious:

- At least 10 days since symptoms first appeared AND,
- At least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication AND,
- Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving.

If someone is vaccinated and was a close contact to someone who was positive, do they need to stay home?

Close contact is defined as being less than 6 feet away from an infectious person for more than 15 consecutive minutes up to 2 days before the individual started showing symptoms or tested positive (if no symptoms) AND at least one person was not masked during the interaction.

Fully vaccinated close contacts (2 weeks past either a 2-dose Pfizer or Moderna series or a 1-dose J&J series) do not need to stay home, but should monitor for symptoms and get tested; recommendations include:

- Self-monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days following an exposure.
- Get tested 3-5 days exposure, even if they don't have symptoms
- Wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days following exposure or until their test result is negative

If a fully vaccinated close contact begins to develop symptoms, the individual should get tested for COVID-19 and follow the recommendations above.

Refer to IDPH's Epi Manual for further information on contacts who have tested positive in the past 3 months, unvaccinated contacts who have tested antibody positive, and for testing information:

<https://wiki.idph.iowa.gov/Portals/3/userfiles/79/C-D/COVID-19%20Chapter%20Final%2008-12-21.pdf>