



Date: January 13, 2022

REVISION TO DIOCESE OF JOLIET COVID-19 EXPOSURE PROTOCOLS FOR PARISHES AND SCHOOLS

This document shall supersede all guidelines previously issued by the Diocese of Joliet and are subject to revision. Parishes and schools shall defer to local county health department regulations if they are more stringent. This applies to all staff and students.

Note this policy does not supersede the State mandate for testing of school staff, nor the OSHA testing requirements for nonvaccinated.

IF EXPOSED TO COVID-19 AND ARE UP TO DATE WITH VACCINATION OR HAD CONFIRMED COVID-19 WITHIN THE PAST 90 DAYS (you tested positive using a viral PCR test, i.e., an antigen test or a nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT)):¹

- No quarantine.
- You do not need to stay home from work or school unless you develop symptoms.
- **Wear a well-fitted mask any time you are around others. Executive order continues to require wearing of masks at workplace/school.**

Get tested

- Even if you don't develop symptoms, get **tested at least 5 days after you last had close contact** with someone with COVID-19.
- You do not need to stay home from work or school unless you develop symptoms.

Watch for symptoms

- Even if you don't develop symptoms, get **tested at least 5 days after you last had close contact** with someone with COVID-19.
- Watch for symptoms until 10 days after you last had close contact with someone with COVID-19.

IF YOU DEVELOP SYMPTOMS

- **Isolate immediately** and get tested. Continue to stay home from work or school until you know the results. Wear a well-fitted mask around others.
- **Anyone who tests positive for COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status**, should isolate for 5 days after onset of symptoms, or 5 days from specimen collection date if no symptoms are present.

IF EXPOSED TO COVID-19 AND NOT UP TO DATE ON COVID-19 VACCINATIONS (INCLUDING BOOSTER):¹

Quarantine for at least 5 days

- Stay home and quarantine for at least 5 full days before returning to work or school.
- Get tested, even if you don't develop symptoms, **at least 5 days after** you last had close contact with someone with COVID-19,

After quarantine

- Watch for symptoms until 10 days after you last had close contact with someone with COVID-19.

If you develop symptoms

- Isolate immediately and get tested.
- Continue to stay home from work or school until you know the results.
- Wear a well-fitted mask around others.

Take precautions until day 10

- **Wear a well-fitted mask any time you are around others. Executive order continues to require wearing of masks at workplace/school.**
- **Make sure to allow at least 3-feet around others** when mask must be removed (such as to eat or drink).

IF TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 OR HAVE SYMPTOMS, REGARDLESS OF VACCINATION STATUS:¹

Stay home for at least 5 days

- Stay home for 5 days before returning to work or school.
- Wear a well-fitted mask if you must be around others.

Ending isolation if you had symptoms or positive test result

- End isolation after 5 full days if you are fever-free for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medication) and your symptoms are improving.

Ending isolation if you did NOT have symptoms

- End isolation after at least 5 full days after your positive test.

If you were severely ill with COVID-19

- You should isolate for at least 10 days.
- **Consult your doctor before ending isolation.**

Take precautions until day 10

- **Wear a well-fitted mask any time you are around others. Executive order continues to require wearing of masks at workplace/school.**
- **Make sure to allow at least 3-feet around others** when mask must be removed (such as to eat or drink).

The following applies to all categories in red.

CLOSE CONTACT DEFINITION

Close contacts are someone who was less than 6 feet away from an infected person (laboratory-confirmed or a clinical diagnosis) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period. For example, three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes.

CALCULATING ISOLATION

Day 0 is your first day of symptoms or a positive viral test. **Day 1 is the first full day after your symptoms developed or your test specimen was collected.** If you have COVID-19 or have symptoms, isolate for **at least 5 days.**

CALCULATING QUARANTINE

Day 0 is the date of exposure. **Day 1 is the first full day after your last contact with a person who has had COVID-19.** Stay home and away from other people for **at least 5 days.**

TESTING

The availability of testing varies by day and location. While convenient, many drugstore testing sites are overloaded. Consult your county health departments and consider optional places to get tested. If you are unable to find a testing site, contact your supervisor/principal who will address the situation.

REFERENCE

1. *Refer to CDC website and/or physician for further guidance on definitions and vaccination timeline requirements.*