



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CDC 24/7: Saving Lives, Protecting People™



COVID-19

CDC has updated its guidance for people who are fully vaccinated. See [Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People](#).

Recommendations for Quarantine Duration in Correctional and Detention Facilities

Updated June 9, 2021

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Summary of Recent Changes

Updates as of June 9, 2021



- Clarification that incarcerated/detained persons who are [fully vaccinated](#) and do not have [symptoms of COVID-19](#) do not need to quarantine at intake, after transfer, or following exposure to suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
- Clarification that incarcerated/detained persons who are [fully vaccinated](#) should continue to be tested for SARS-CoV-2 following exposure to suspected or confirmed COVID-19 or if they develop any [symptoms of COVID-19](#).

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Congregate settings, including correctional and detention facilities, are characterized by a diverse and varying set of factors that can [increase risk](#) and affect exposure to and transmission of COVID-19. These factors mean incarcerated/detained persons exiting quarantine prior to 14 days may not be able to comply with prevention measures necessary to reduce the risk of post-quarantine transmission (e.g. mask-wearing, physical distancing).

Failure to detect transmission among people exiting quarantine prior to 14 days can result in a repeated cycle of medically isolating infected people and quarantining their [close contacts](#), placing an even higher operational burden on the staff and further stretching limited healthcare resources and space constraints. For these reasons, CDC recommends continued use of a 14-day quarantine in correctional and detention facilities for people who are [not fully vaccinated](#).

Before implementing a shortened quarantine duration (<14 days) for incarcerated/detained persons or staff who are **not fully vaccinated**, facilities should weigh the risks and benefits of different [quarantine scenarios](#). Facilities should:

- Carefully weigh the risks of increased transmission and secondary clusters
- Consider the following individual facility characteristics:
 - Facility vaccination rate for staff and incarcerated/detained people
 - [Level of community transmission](#)
 - Ability to maintain [physical distancing](#)
 - Compliance with universal masking policies
 - Ability to [properly ventilate](#)
 - Proportion of staff and incarcerated/detained people at [increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19](#)
 - Availability of resources for [broad-based testing](#), daily symptom screening, and outbreak response

Modifications to quarantine duration for staff or people who are incarcerated/detained who are **not fully vaccinated** should be made in consultation with public health authorities and with an understanding of the residual risk of transmission. Refer to [CDC guidance for correctional and detention facilities](#) for further details regarding how to most effectively lower the risk of post-quarantine transmission.

If a reduced quarantine duration is implemented for staff who are **not fully vaccinated**, facility management should require staff to:

- Continue to self-monitor for [symptoms of COVID-19](#) through day 14 after known or suspected exposure to or close contact with a person with COVID-19
- Immediately self-isolate if [symptoms of COVID-19](#) occur during the 14 days after exposure
- Adhere to all recommended prevention strategies during the full 14 days (e.g., [mask wearing](#), [physical distancing](#), [hand hygiene](#), [cleaning and disinfection](#), and [proper ventilation](#))

Vaccinated Staff and Incarcerated/Detained Persons in Correctional and Detention Facilities

Incarcerated/Detained persons who are fully vaccinated

Incarcerated/detained persons who are **fully vaccinated** (i.e., ≥2 weeks after receiving the second dose in a two-dose series [Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna], or ≥2 weeks after receiving a single-dose vaccine [Johnson and Johnson/Janssen]) and **do not have symptoms consistent with COVID-19** do not need to quarantine at intake, after transfer, or following exposure to suspected or confirmed COVID-19. Regardless of whether they develop [symptoms of COVID-19](#), incarcerated/detained persons who are **fully vaccinated** should continue to be tested for SARS-CoV-2 following an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.

Incarcerated/detained persons with [symptoms of COVID-19](#), regardless of vaccination status, should be given a mask (if not already wearing one and if it can be worn safely), immediately placed under medical isolation in a separate environment from other individuals, tested for SARS-CoV-2, and medically evaluated. Refer to [CDC guidance for](#)

[correctional and detention facilities](#) for further details regarding medical isolation of individuals with confirmed or suspected COVID-19.

Staff who are fully vaccinated

Correctional and detention staff who are [fully vaccinated](#) (i.e., ≥ 2 weeks after receiving the second dose in a two-dose series [Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna], or ≥ 2 weeks after receiving a single-dose vaccine [Johnson and Johnson/Janssen]) and [do not have symptoms consistent with COVID-19](#) do not need to quarantine or be excluded from work following exposure to suspected or confirmed COVID-19. However, testing and symptom monitoring following an exposure are still recommended.

Staff with [symptoms of COVID-19](#), regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status, should be excluded from work, immediately self-isolate, and be tested for SAR-CoV-2.

More details can be found on the [Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People](#) website.

Considerations for Staff Travel

Vaccinated and unvaccinated staff should follow:

- CDC [domestic](#) and [international](#) travel requirements and recommendations before, during, and after travel
- [State and local](#) government travel recommendations or requirements
- Their employer's policies on returning to work after work-related or personal travel

Previous Updates

Updates from Previous Content



As of March 18, 2021

A revision was made on 3/18/2021 to reflect the following:

- Clarification that fully vaccinated correctional and detention staff who do not have symptoms of COVID-19 do not need to quarantine following exposure to suspected or confirmed COVID-19
- Additional information on testing and travel after being fully vaccinated.

Last Updated June 9, 2021

Content source: [National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases \(NCIRD\), Division of Viral Diseases](#)