

YOU ARE A CLOSE CONTACT TO A COVID-19 CASE, NOW WHAT?

This guidance is for people who were identified as a Close Contact to a COVID-19 positive individual. This is defined as someone within 6 feet for 15 cumulative minutes or more in a 24-hour period while the case is deemed to be infectious (48 hours prior to their onset of symptoms; for asymptomatic cases, 48 hours prior to the date they were tested.)

Signs and symptoms of COVID-19

The most common symptoms of novel coronavirus are fever and cough, difficulty breathing, loss of taste/smell, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills, diarrhea, and nausea/vomiting. These symptoms can also be due to many other illnesses. If you develop a fever or any symptoms, it doesn't mean you have COVID-19, but you should contact your health care provider for COVID-19 testing.

Monitoring Period

Remain at home or in a comparable setting for the next two weeks. Avoid congregate settings, public activities, and practice social distancing. This means you should remain out of public places, workplaces, schools and other classroom settings for the duration of your monitoring period unless approved by the local health department.

Under the updated considerations, Wayne County residents exposed to COVID-19 will be required to stay in their homes for a minimum 10 days, while a full 14 days is recommended. You must continue to self-monitor for a full 14 days, regardless. It may take up to 14 days to develop symptoms. **A negative test does not change the quarantine period.** If symptoms develop at any point during the quarantine period, call your primary care physician.

Close contacts should monitor health daily for up to **14 days** following your last potential exposure to a person with COVID-19. This does **NOT** mean that you will get sick with COVID-19.

If you become sick and are found to be COVID-19 **Positive**, the Wayne County Health Department will work with you on the next steps of notifying any contacts. (See: [Notifying Your Contacts](#)) If you test and are found to be **Negative** you still need to finish your quarantine period.

Other individuals in your household do not have to quarantine unless they have been notified that they are also a close contact.

Monitor your symptoms

It is important for you to monitor your health daily so that you can be taken care of and treated quickly if you get sick. Based on what is known from other coronavirus infections, 14 days is the longest time between when you were last exposed to COVID-19 and when symptoms begin.

If you have fever (100.4°F or higher), cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms such as loss of taste/smell, chills, sore throat, body aches, headache, diarrhea, or nausea/vomiting, you should be tested or contact the Wayne County Health Department for further instructions.

What should I do if I become ill during this monitoring period?

Unless it is an emergency, DO NOT go to a clinic without first calling ahead. Calling first will help the clinic prepare to greet you and take care of you in the safest possible way. If you must go to the hospital, notify staff immediately that you are being monitored for COVID-19. If you become ill and test negative at any time during your monitoring period, you still need to remain in quarantine for 14 days.

Wayne County Health Department

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