

Nursing MEMO

Date: March 2, 2021
From: Caroline Eldred, RN and Kate Hood, RN
Re: Updated Quarantine Guidelines

The CDC and BOH have issued new quarantine guidelines for anyone who is fully vaccinated. It is still extremely important that we continue to use Universal Precautions (hand washing, mask, ongoing sanitizing of house) in order to continue to mitigate the spread.

Staff and individuals fully vaccinated and have been exposed to a positive

- If staff or individuals have received both doses of the vaccine and are 2 weeks post vaccination they do not need to quarantine, but must wear full PPE.
- If anyone becomes symptomatic, after being exposed they must isolate and be tested.

Staff and individuals not vaccinated and have been exposed to a positive

- Can continue to work wearing full PPE as long as they are symptom free.
- Must test 5 days from their last day of exposure to the positive person.
- "Color" testing cannot be used in this case. PCR nasal swab testing must be done elsewhere.

For all Staff or Individuals - Vaccinated or Not

- If staff is reporting symptoms. Instruct them to call a provider.
 - If Provider requires COVID test - Ask provider if they can return to work with full PPE once symptom free for 48 hours if they are still awaiting test results. Get documentation.
 - If Provider does NOT require COVID test – Staff must attest to being symptom free for 48 hours (without medicine) before returning to work.

For any positive staff or individuals: Immediately notify nursing. They will give directive and follow up with an email. As per the Board of Health they will instruct you to gather staff information following BOH guidelines

Day Program:

- If there is an exposure at a residential house all individuals vaccinated or not, must remain home until the house is cleared by Nursing Supervisors.

All staff must inform BCARC of any outside exposures

Work Expectations for fully vaccinated staff

- If staff lives with a symptomatic person that is not COVID positive but is getting tested, **staff are expected to work but must wear full PPE (gloves, gowns, surgical, masks, face shield)**
- If staff has any community exposure to someone with symptoms but not yet positive (may be waiting for results), **staff are expected to work but must wear full PPE.**
- If staff have been directly exposed to a **CONFIRMED COVID** positive OUTSIDE of work, **staff can continue to work as long they remain symptom free, but must wear full PPE.**

Work Expectations for not vaccinated staff

- If staff lives with a symptomatic person that is not COVID positive but is getting tested, **staff are expected to work but must wear full PPE (gloves, gowns, surgical masks, face shield).**
- If staff has had any community exposures to someone with symptoms but not yet positive (may be waiting for results), **staff are expected to work but must wear full PPE.**
- If staff has been directly exposed to a **CONFIRMED COVID** positive OUTSIDE of work, **they must be tested and NOT work until cleared.**

If there is a **CONFIRMED COVID** positive case in a house- we ask that all staff remain working at the house until house is cleared.

This update is subject to any changes in CDC and BOH guidance. We will also consider suspending these guidelines if the positivity rate begins to trend upwards.