

# How COVID-19 vaccinations affect quarantine and isolation



## Getting vaccinated will help keep you, your family, and your community healthy and safe.

All COVID-19 vaccines authorized by the FDA are safe and are effective at protecting you from the virus. They keep you from getting sick, needing to be hospitalized, and or dying from COVID-19. Recent studies<sup>1</sup> show the vaccines work against the new variants of the virus identified so far. People who are fully vaccinated are less likely than unvaccinated persons to get the virus that causes COVID-19 or to spread it to others. Breakthrough infections in fully vaccinated people can happen but are rare and usually mild. By getting vaccinated, you're helping to end the damage to our economy, prevent more deaths and illnesses, and stop COVID-19 from continuing to spread. Vaccines are how we get our lives back. [Learn more](#)



## How do COVID-19 vaccinations affect quarantine and isolation guidelines?

You are considered fully vaccinated 2 weeks after your final dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Two-dose vaccines: 2 weeks after your 2nd shot (Pfizer BioNTech and Moderna).  
One-dose vaccines: 2 weeks after your shot (Johnson & Johnson/Janssen).

This means you don't have to quarantine if it has been 2 weeks since your final shot, even if you are exposed to someone who tests positive. Fully vaccinated people do not need to quarantine and can continue to go to work, school, and participate in events. We know there is a small chance vaccinated people can get COVID-19 (called a breakthrough case) and pass the virus to other people, so to be very safe we suggest vaccinated people get a COVID-19 test 3 days after they were exposed.

COVID-19 vaccines are extremely effective at protecting you from the virus. However, there are certain circumstances when you may need to quarantine or isolate, even after you've had the COVID-19 vaccine. You should still wear a face mask and take precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 until more people are able to get the vaccine.



<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/science-briefs/fully-vaccinated-people.html>

## What to do if you have symptoms of COVID-19:

If you have symptoms of COVID-19 and:	
<b>Have not been vaccinated yet</b>	<b>Have been partially vaccinated</b> (had only 1 dose of a 2-dose vaccine, like Pfizer or Moderna)
<a href="#">Isolate</a> and <a href="#">get tested</a> right away.	<a href="#">Isolate</a> and <a href="#">get tested</a> right away.
If you are fully vaccinated and have symptoms of COVID-19: (had 2 doses of Pfizer or Moderna vaccines or 1 dose of Johnson & Johnson vaccine)	
<b>If it has NOT been 2 weeks since you were vaccinated</b>	<b>If it has been at least 2 weeks since you were vaccinated</b>
<a href="#">Isolate</a> and <a href="#">get tested</a> right away.	<p>Isolate and call your doctor or healthcare provider.</p> <p>It is likely that something other than COVID-19 is causing your symptoms. However, we know there is a small chance vaccinated people can get COVID-19 (called a breakthrough case) and pass the virus to other people, so to be very safe we suggest vaccinated people get a COVID-19 test 3 days after they were exposed.</p> <p>COVID-19 vaccines do not interfere with the accuracy of the test.</p>

## What to do if you're exposed to someone who tests positive:

If you <b>haven't had your final dose</b> of the vaccine and are exposed to someone who tests positive:	
<b>Have not been vaccinated yet</b>	<b>Have been partially vaccinated</b> (had only 1 dose of a 2-dose vaccine, like Pfizer or Moderna)
<a href="#">Quarantine</a> and <a href="#">get tested</a> for COVID-19.	<a href="#">Quarantine</a> and <a href="#">get tested</a> for COVID-19.
If you've had <b>your final</b> dose of the vaccine and are exposed to someone who tests positive: (had 2 doses of Pfizer or Moderna vaccines or 1 dose of Johnson & Johnson vaccine)	
<b>If it has NOT been 2 weeks since you were vaccinated</b>	<b>If it has been at least 2 weeks since you were vaccinated</b>
<a href="#">Quarantine</a> and <a href="#">get tested</a> for COVID-19.	<p>You don't need to quarantine. However, we know there is a small chance vaccinated people can get COVID-19 (called a breakthrough case) and pass the virus to other people, so to be very safe we suggest vaccinated people get a COVID-19 test 3 days after they were exposed.</p> <p>If you get symptoms of COVID-19 after you were exposed (which would be rare), isolate and call your doctor or healthcare provider. You should get tested for COVID-19.</p>

### You should isolate at home if you test positive for COVID-19, even if you are fully vaccinated.

You should isolate at home if you test positive or have symptoms of COVID-19, even if you are fully vaccinated. The vaccines do not interfere with the accuracy of COVID-19 tests. This means if you test positive after you're vaccinated, you have COVID-19 and can spread the virus to others. These are called breakthrough cases. Breakthrough cases are rare but can happen.