

County of Imperial
Order of the Health Officer
(Quarantine of All Persons Exposed to COVID-19)

Pursuant to sections 101030, 101040, 120175, and 120215, 120220, and 120225 of the California Health and Safety Code, the Imperial County Health Officer (“Health Officer”) hereby rescinds and supersedes the Health Officer Quarantine Order dated June 14, 2020. The Health Officer hereby **ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:**

WHEREAS, the spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID-19”) is a substantial threat to the public’s health and safety. The County of Imperial (“County”) is currently subject to a declared local health emergency and a proclaimed local emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Governor of the state of California has proclaimed a state of emergency. Everyone is at risk for becoming ill with COVID-19, but some people are more vulnerable to serious illness due to age or underlying health conditions. In order to slow the spread of COVID-19 and prevent the healthcare system in the County from becoming overwhelmed, it is necessary for the Health Officer of the County to require the quarantine of persons exposed to COVID-19 (“COVID Exposed Persons”); and

WHEREAS, household contacts, intimate partners, caregivers, and any other persons who have been in close contact with a person either diagnosed with COVID-19, or likely to have COVID-19 (“COVID Positive Person”) shall be considered COVID Exposed Persons. An individual is considered to be a close contact of a COVID Positive Person if, within forty-eight (48) hours before the symptoms began (or, for asymptomatic patients, two (2) days prior to test specimen collection), and until the COVID Positive Person is no longer required to be isolated, the individual:

- a. Was within six (6) feet of a COVID Positive Person for a cumulative total of fifteen (15) minutes or more over a twenty-four (24) hour period; OR
- b. Had unprotected contact with the body fluids and/or secretions (including but not limited to being coughed on or sneezed on, sharing utensils, or drinking out of the same container) of a COVID Positive Person; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) and the California Department of Public Health (“CDPH”) currently recommend that COVID Exposed Persons quarantine for a period of fourteen (14) days after COVID-19 exposure, based on estimates of the upper bounds of the COVID-19 incubation period; however, a 14-day quarantine may not be feasible in health care settings during critical staffing shortages when there are not enough staff to provide safe patient care. On February 16, 2021, the CDC provided updates on options to reduce the quarantine period for COVID Exposed Persons, and updated its guidance on [Strategies to Mitigate Healthcare Personnel Staffing Shortage](#). Additionally, on March 5, 2021, CDPH posted its [Guidance on Quarantine for Health Care Personnel \(HCP\) Exposed to SARS-CoV-2](#).

WHEREAS, this Order is intended to provide for the quarantine of COVID Exposed Persons, while at the same time, provide flexibility for health care facilities experiencing critical staffing shortages, in accordance with CDC's [Strategies to Mitigate Healthcare Personnel Staffing Shortage](#) and CDPH's [Guidance on Quarantine for Health Care Personnel \(HCP\) Exposed to SARS-CoV-2](#).

THEREFORE, effective 12:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 11, 2021, and continuing until rescinded, the following will be in effect for the County of Imperial:

1. Hospital Health Care Professionals ("HCPs") and Patients.

a. *Non-vaccinated Hospitals HCPs.*

i. COVID Exposed Persons that are HCPs of a hospital and are asymptomatic may discontinue quarantine after ten (10) days from the date of last exposure to a COVID Positive Person, with or without testing. The COVID Exposed Person shall continue to self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms for fourteen (14) days from the date of last exposure to a COVID Positive Person, shall wear a face covering at all times while away from quarantine, and shall immediately isolate if COVID-19 symptoms develop within the 14-day exposure period.

ii. If a hospital has made a determination that it is experiencing a critical staffing shortage, and that there are not enough staff available to provide adequate care for patients, then COVID Exposed Persons that are HCPs employed by the hospital may return to work after seven (7) days from the date of last exposure to a COVID Positive Person if they have received a negative COVID-19 PCR test result from a specimen collected at least five (5) days from the date of last exposure to a COVID Positive Person. The COVID Exposed Person shall continue to self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms for fourteen (14) days from the date of last exposure to a COVID Positive Person, shall wear a face covering at all times while away from quarantine, and shall immediately isolate if COVID-19 symptoms develop within the 14-day exposure period.

b. *Vaccinated Hospital HCPs.* COVID Exposed Persons that are HCPs of a hospital and have been fully vaccinated no longer than three (3) months prior to exposure to a COVID Positive Person shall not be required to quarantine, so long as they do not subsequently develop COVID-19 symptoms within the 14-day exposure period.. An individual is considered to be fully vaccinated two (2) weeks after receiving the second dose of a two-dose vaccination series; or two (2) weeks after receiving one does of a single dose vaccination series.

c. *COVID Recovered Hospital HCPs.* COVID Exposed Persons that are HCPs of a hospital, have previously tested positive for COVID-19, and have subsequently

recovered no longer than three (3) months prior to exposure to a COVID Positive Person shall not be required to quarantine, so long as they do not subsequently develop COVID-19 symptoms within the 14-day exposure period.

- d. *Hospital Patients.* COVID Exposed Persons that are patients of a hospital shall be required to quarantine for fourteen (14) days from the date of last exposure to a COVID Positive Person, regardless of whether they have been fully vaccinated or have previously recovered from COVID-19.

2. Congregate Setting Employees and Residents.

a. *Non-vaccinated Congregate Setting Employees.*

- i. COVID Exposed Persons that are employees of a high-risk congregare living setting (e.g., skilled nursing facility, senior living facility, prison, jail, community shelter) (“Congregate Setting”) shall be required to quarantine for fourteen (14) days from the date of last exposure to a COVID Positive Person.

- ii. If a Congregate Setting has made a determination that it is experiencing a critical staffing shortage, and that there are not enough staff available to provide adequate services to residents, then COVID Exposed Persons employed by the Congregate Setting may return to work after ten (10) days from the date of last exposure to a COVID Positive Person, with or without testing; or seven (7) days from the date of last exposure to a COVID Positive Person if they have received a negative COVID-19 PCR test result from a specimen collected at least five (5) days from the date of last exposure to a COVID Positive Person. The COVID Exposed Person shall continue to self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms for fourteen (14) days from the date of last exposure to a COVID Positive Person, shall wear a face covering at all times while away from quarantine, and shall immediately isolate if COVID-19 symptoms develop within the 14-day exposure period.

- b. *Vaccinated Congregate Setting Employees.* COVID Exposed Persons that are employees of a Congregate Setting and have been fully vaccinated no longer than three (3) months prior to exposure to a COVID Positive Person shall not be required to quarantine, so long as they do not subsequently develop COVID-19 symptoms within the 14-day exposure period. An individual is considered to be fully vaccinated two (2) weeks after receiving the second dose of a two-dose vaccination series; or two (2) weeks after receiving one dose of a single dose vaccination series.

- c. *COVID Recovered Congregate Setting Employees.* COVID Exposed Persons that are employees of a Congregate Setting, have previously tested positive for COVID-19, and have subsequently recovered no longer than three (3) months prior to exposure to a COVID Positive Person shall not be required to quarantine, so long

as they do not subsequently develop COVID-19 symptoms within the 14-day exposure period.

- d. *Congregate Setting Residents.* COVID Exposed Persons that are residents of a Congregate Setting shall be required to quarantine for fourteen (14) days from the date of last exposure to a COVID Positive Person, regardless of whether they have been fully vaccinated or have previously recovered from COVID-19.

3. General Public.

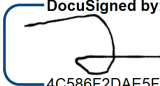
- a. *Non-Vaccinated General Public.* COVID Exposed Persons that are members of the general public and are asymptomatic may discontinue quarantine after ten (10) days from the date of last exposure to a COVID Positive Person, with or without testing. The COVID Exposed Person shall continue to self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms for fourteen (14) days from the date of last exposure to a COVID Positive Person, shall wear a face covering at all times while away from quarantine, and shall immediately isolate if COVID-19 symptoms develop within the 14-day exposure period.
 - b. *Vaccinated General Public.* COVID Exposed Persons that are members of the general public and have been fully vaccinated no longer than three (3) months prior to exposure to a COVID Positive Person shall not be required to quarantine, so long as they do not subsequently develop COVID-19 symptoms within the 14-day exposure period. An individual is considered to be fully vaccinated two (2) weeks after receiving the second dose of a two-dose vaccination series; or two (2) weeks after receiving one dose of a single dose vaccination series.
 - c. *COVID Recovered General Public.* COVID Exposed Persons that are members of the general public, have previously tested positive for COVID-19, and have subsequently recovered no longer than three (3) months prior to exposure to a COVID Positive Person shall not be required to quarantine, so long as they do not subsequently develop COVID-19 symptoms within the 14-day exposure period.
4. If quarantined in a congregate setting, hotel, or multi-unit setting, COVID Exposed Persons shall not enter any other units within that setting.
 5. COVID Exposed Persons shall carefully review and closely follow all requirements of the Health Officer, Health Officer representative, or medical provider.
 6. COVID Exposed Persons shall keep a minimum distance of six (6) feet between themselves and other individuals at all times whenever possible, excluding a treating medical professional, a caretaker, a law enforcement officer enforcing this Order, a representative of the Health Officer, or any other person specifically authorized by the Health Officer.
 7. If any subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Order, or any application of it, is held to be invalid, preempted, or unconstitutional by a decision of a court of competent

jurisdiction, then such decision will not affect the validity of the remaining portions or applications of this Order.

8. This Order is issued in accordance with, and incorporates by reference any applicable federal, State, or local law, regulation, rule, policy, or procedure related to COVID-19, as they may be amended or supplemented.
9. To protect the public's health, the Health Officer may take additional action(s) for failure to comply with this Order. Violation of this Order is a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment, fine or both under sections 120295 et seq. of the California Health and Safety Code. Further, pursuant to sections 26602 and 41601 of the California Government Code, and section 101029 of the California Health and Safety Code, the Health Officer requests that the Sheriff and the Chiefs of Police in all cities located in the County ensure compliance with and enforcement of this Order.
10. This Order shall remain in effect until rescinded.

IT IS SO ORDERED:

Date: March 11, 2021

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Stephen Munday, M.D., MPH
Health Officer