



ARCHDIOCESE of BALTIMORE

COVID-19 ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE PROTOCOLS FOR ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS JANUARY 6, 2022

Introduction

Effective Monday, January 10, 2022, all Archdiocesan locations are to adopt the new isolation and quarantine guidance issued by the CDC on December 27, 2021. Please note this guidance applies to employees, as well as volunteers who are regularly in parish offices or otherwise on the parish campus.

Isolation

If an employee or volunteer tests positive for COVID-19 or presents with COVID like symptoms, the individual must isolate for a period of 5 days. The period of isolation begins either the day after onset of symptoms or the date on which the COVID-19 tests with the positive finding was administered. For example, if an individual's onset of symptoms occurred on January 1, the first day of the period of isolation would begin on January 2. The person would then isolate for 5 days, or until January 6 and return on January 7.

In order to return on the 6th day, the individual's symptoms must have resolved. If the individual's symptoms have not resolved, the individual must be symptoms free for 24 hours before returning to work or their volunteer duties at the conclusion of the isolation. Also, the individual is not required to be tested in order to return to work or their volunteer duties.

The individual is also required to be masked while around others for an additional 5 days immediately following the isolation, regardless of whether masking is mandated in the local jurisdiction.

Quarantine

The guidance related to an individual who must quarantine as the result of coming into close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual or an individual presumed to have COVID-19 due to symptoms, does vary dependent on the individual's vaccination status.

Under the new guidance, an individual is considered to be fully vaccinated if they meet one of the following criteria:

- the employee or volunteer has been boosted; or
- the employee or volunteer has completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 6 months;
- the employee or volunteer has completed the primary series of J&J vaccine within the last two months.

An individual is considered to be non-vaccinated, if they fall into any of the below criteria:

- the employee or volunteer is unvaccinated; or
- the employee or volunteer is beyond 6 months from having completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine; or
- the employee or volunteer is beyond 2 months from having completed the primary series of the J&J vaccines; or
- the employee or volunteer is not otherwise boosted.

Applying the above definition of vaccinated, those employees or volunteers fully vaccinated, if identified as a close contact, do not need to quarantine. Rather, they are to wear a mask while around others for 10 days, regardless of the masking mandate in the jurisdiction and are strongly encouraged to be tested on day 5 if at all possible.

Applying the above definition of non-vaccinated, those employees or volunteers that are non-vaccinated and are identified as a close contact, these individuals do need to quarantine for a period of 5 days. Please refer to the discussion under the isolation section as to how the days are to be counted. The only difference is rather than the first day starting by the date of testing or first symptoms, the period of quarantine begins from the first day after which the employee or volunteer is no longer exposed to the confirmed positive or presumptive positive individual.

At the conclusion of the 5 days quarantine, the individual is allowed to return work or their volunteer role. It is strongly encouraged that the individual be tested on day 5 of the quarantine. Lastly, the individual must wear a mask for a minimum of 5 additional days immediately following the quarantine regardless of the masking mandate in the local jurisdiction.

If an individual, whether vaccinated or non-vaccinated, should develop symptoms after being released from quarantine, those individuals should stay home and get tested or seek medical attention.

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