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ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT MASS QUARANTINE ORDER

DATE OF ORDER: November 8th, 2021

Please read this Order carefully. Violation of or failure to comply with this Order is a misdemeanor punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both. (California Health and Safety Code, § 120295.)

SUMMARY OF THE ORDER

California is in a State of Emergency, because of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. The spread of the virus that causes COVID-19, is a substantial danger to the residents of the County of Humboldt ("County"). COVID-19 can easily spread between people who are in close contact with one another. This order is based on current scientific evidence and best practices. Exposure to COVID-19 can have serious health complications, including death in people who are vulnerable. There is evidence of transmission risk from infected persons before the onset of symptoms. This means that people who contract COVID-19, whether they show symptoms or not, may place other vulnerable members of the public at significant risk. Vaccine is broadly available at this time and it is the most efficacious way to prevent COVID-19.

The County Health Officer requires the quarantine of people who have been exposed to a person diagnosed with COVID-19, unless you have been [fully vaccinated](#). Quarantine separates individuals exposed to COVID-19 from others, until it is determined that they are not at risk for spreading the disease. This is done to slow COVID-19's spread, protect vulnerable individuals, and prevent the healthcare system in the County from being overwhelmed.

UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF SECTIONS 101040 AND 120175 OF THE CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE, THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT ("HEALTH OFFICER") ORDERS:

1. [All persons who have had close contact with a person with COVID-19 \("Case"\), as described below in Section 2, must quarantine themselves](#), unless you have been [fully vaccinated](#). These persons are required to follow all instructions in this Order and the Public Health guidance documents referenced in this Order. The following exceptions apply:



DHHS Administration
phone: (707) 441-5400
fax: (707) 441-5412

Behavioral Health
phone: (707) 268-2990
fax: (707) 476-4049

Social Services
phone: (707) 476-4700
fax: (707) 441-2096

- a. Fully vaccinated persons who have had close contact with a case may refrain from quarantine following a known exposure if asymptomatic. It is recommended by CDC that fully vaccinated persons exposed to COVID-19 test 5-7 days after the exposure and wear a mask in public for 14 days. If symptoms develop, they should isolate and test immediately. For the purposes of this guidance, people are considered fully vaccinated for COVID-19: two (2) weeks or more after they have received the second dose in a 2-dose series (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna), or two (2) weeks or more after they have received a single-dose vaccine (Johnson and Johnson[J&J]/Janssen). This also applies to COVID-19 vaccines approved by the World Health Organization, as listed at <https://extranet.who.int/pqweb/vaccines/covid-19-vaccines>.
 - b. Persons who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past three (3) months and recovered do not have to quarantine or get tested again as long as they do not develop new symptoms. People who develop symptoms again within three (3) months of their first bout of COVID-19 may need to be tested again if there is no other cause identified for their symptoms. Consult a healthcare professional to see if you need testing.
2. For the purposes of this Order, a person is considered to have had close contact with a Case if, during the Case's infectious period, the person was within 0-6 feet of the Case for a total of 15 minutes or longer over a 24-hour period. Examples may include persons who:
- a. Live in, have visited, or have stayed overnight at the Case's residence; or
 - b. Are intimate sexual partners of the Case; or
 - c. Worked within six feet of the Case; or
 - d. Provide or provided care to the Case without wearing a mask, a face shield or goggles, gown, and gloves; or
 - e. Have been identified as close contacts by the Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services.

For purposes of this Order, a Case is infectious from 48 hours before their symptoms began (or, in the absence of symptoms, from 48 hours before the date of administration of a positive test for the presence of COVID-19) and until they are released from isolation.

3. Instructions: all unvaccinated persons who have had close contact with a Case must immediately take the following actions:
- a. Stay in their home or another residence for 14 days from the last date that they were in contact with the person infected, or likely to be infected with COVID-19. A 14-



day quarantine is the safest to prevent spread of infection to others. Persons are required to quarantine themselves for the entirety of this period, unless otherwise stated the period can be shortened or modified, because they are at high risk for developing and spreading COVID-19.

b. Quarantined persons may not leave their place of quarantine or enter any other public or private place, except to receive necessary medical care or during an emergency that requires evacuation to protect the health and safety of the person.

c. Carefully review and closely follow all requirements listed in the "Home Quarantine Instructions," posted at humboldt.gov/blanketorders and attached to this order.

d. Get tested immediately after being identified as a close contact. If the test is negative, you should get tested again 5-7 days after the last exposure and continue to quarantine until the quarantine is complete. Quarantine ends when the correct number of days pass, not the day of the negative test, unless the negative test coincides with the last day of quarantine.

e. If a quarantined person becomes sick with: fever, cough, or shortness of breath (even if their symptoms are very mild); they shall isolate themselves at home and away from other people, and follow the "Home Isolation Instructions" posted at humboldt.gov/blanketorders and attached to this order. This is because the person is likely to have COVID-19 and if so, can spread it to vulnerable individuals. If a medical professional examines a quarantined person and determines that their symptoms are not due to COVID -19, the person may discontinue home isolation; but shall continue to follow the home quarantine order and instructions.

4. Shortened Quarantine Period for Unvaccinated Close Contacts: CDPH supports CDC's two options for shortening the recommended 14-day quarantine duration, **but quarantine should not be discontinued earlier than after Day 7** following last known exposure. Under this recommendation, unvaccinated close contacts who remain **asymptomatic**, meaning they have NOT had any symptoms, may discontinue self-quarantine under the following conditions:

- Quarantine can end after Day 10 from the date of last exposure without testing; OR
- Quarantine can end after Day 7 if a diagnostic specimen is collected on Day 5 or later from the date of last exposure and tests negative.

To discontinue quarantine before 14 days following last known exposure, asymptomatic close contacts should:



- Continue daily self-monitoring for symptoms through Day 14 from last known exposure; AND
- Follow all local and state requirements as well as recommended non-pharmaceutical interventions (e.g., wearing a mask when around others, hand washing, avoiding crowds, and staying at least 6 feet from others) through Day 14 from last known exposure.

If any symptoms develop during this 14-day period despite ending quarantine early, the exposed person should immediately self-isolate, get tested and contact their healthcare provider with any questions regarding their care.

Humboldt County Public Health may be more restrictive in allowing the above options for shortened quarantine, based on local circumstances, resources, and exposure settings.

5. Exception: notwithstanding the foregoing, health care workers and first responder agency workers -who are household members, intimate partners, or caregivers of a person with COVID-19 are not subject to this Order under the following circumstances:

- a. The worker informs their employer about the worker's close contact to the confirmed Case; AND
- b. The worker is asymptomatic, and the worker's employer determines, based on staffing needs, that the worker needs to report to work; AND
- c. The worker returns to work; AND
- d. Public health has issued modified essential healthcare worker quarantine instructions for this individual to return to work while on quarantine; AND
- e. The worker is on home quarantine other than for the purpose of going to work and performing their essential duties at work.

6. Unvaccinated Close Contact in K-12 School Settings: For quarantine considerations of an unvaccinated close contact in a K-12 schools setting, see [CDPH K-12 Schools Reopening Guidance](#) and [CDPH K-12 testing strategies](#) which address students staying in school in a modified quarantine under certain circumstances.

7. The Health Officer may take additional action(s), which may include civil detention or requiring one to stay at a health facility or other location, to protect the public's health; if an individual who is subject to this Order violates or fails to comply with this Order.

8. This Order shall become effective 12:01AM on November 8th, 2021, and will continue to be in effect until it is: extended, rescinded, superseded, or amended by the Health Officer. This Order shall replace the Mass Quarantine Order previously issued on June 29, 2021.



9. Copies of this Order shall promptly be: (1) made available at the Humboldt County Department of Health & Human Services Public Health Branch, 529 I Street, Eureka, CA 95501; (2) posted on the Humboldt County website humboldt.gov/blanketorders; and (3) provided to any member of the public requesting a copy.

10. If any provision of this Order or its application to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid, then the remainder of the Order, including the application of such part or provision to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected and shall continue in full force and effect. To this end, the provisions of this Order are severable.

11. Humboldt County COVID Information Line during normal business hours, weekdays 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. at **707-441-5000** or email us at CovidInfo@co.humboldt.ca.us.

IT IS SO ORDERED:

Ian Hoffman, MD, MPH

Dated: 11/5/2021 2:54PM

Ian Hoffman, MD, MPH
Health Officer of the County of Humboldt
Attachments:

Appendix A: "Home Quarantine Instructions"
Appendix B: "Home Isolation Instructions"

