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Humboldt County Quarantine of Fully Vaccinated Persons
Clarification for Healthcare Personnel
2/25/2021

Re: CDPH COVID-19 Quarantine Guidance for Fully Vaccinated Persons, released 2/15/2021

The CDPH memo from 2/15/21 establishes criteria for not requiring quarantine of fully vaccinated persons, which may also be applied to fully vaccinated healthcare personnel. Humboldt County Public Health (HCPH) would like to point out that this may be employed “as a strategy to alleviate staffing shortages.” If staffing contingencies permit, the safest and most reliable approach to mitigate introduction of COVID-19 in a healthcare setting will be to restrict those exposed staff from returning to work—this means voluntarily excluding personnel from the workplace despite not being required to quarantine. This becomes critically important in congregate living settings, as fully vaccinated persons may still transmit virus despite lack of symptoms.

With this in mind, HCPH would like to offer clarification of the CDPH guidance, using CDC risk assessment criteria found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assesment-hcp.html>

Healthcare personnel with low risk exposures may continue to follow the CDPH Quarantine Guidance for Fully Vaccinated Persons as laid out, independent of workplace staffing concerns.

However, if fully vaccinated healthcare personnel meet criteria to avoid quarantine, yet had a **high risk exposure**, a healthcare facility (especially a congregate setting for medically vulnerable populations) may wish, at a minimum, to voluntarily exclude the person from work until a PCR specimen collected on day 5-7 demonstrates SARS-CoV-2 negativity. Return to work should be followed by enhanced PPE in the healthcare setting through the end of the 14 day incubation period for that person. Another test at 10-14 days would be prudent for strict containment efforts but can be considered optional should enhanced PPE be in place and the person remain asymptomatic.

Please note that the voluntary workplace exclusion is not the same as quarantine, and that the person in above scenario would not be required to quarantine outside of workplace if they otherwise meet all the criteria for fully vaccinated persons to avoid quarantine.



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