

STATE OF MICHIGAN
ST. CLAIR COUNTY
ST. CLAIR COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

In the Matter of:

PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY
ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES FOR THE QUARANTINE
OF PERSONS IDENTIFIED AS COVID-19 CLOSE CONTACTS

Matters of concern to the health of St. Clair County citizens having been brought to the St. Clair County Public Health Department. Given the primary responsibility to protect the health and safety of the citizens of St Clair County the Medical Health Officer having made the following determinations, issues this policy and recommendations to establish procedures to be followed by, and restrict the public gathering of, healthy persons identified as close contacts of a known or probable case of COVID-19:

DETERMINATIONS

1. Limiting community transmission of the infectious agent that causes the COVID-19 disease is a significant factor in the control of the current epidemic and is necessary to protect the public health of the citizens of St. Clair County.

2. Quarantine of healthy persons who are a close contact, is necessary to control the community transmission of COVID-19.

3. The St. Clair County Department of Public Health determines that a person is a close contact based upon the guidelines issued by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as applied to the local conditions of the COVID-19 epidemic in St. Clair County, at the time of the contact.

4. Controlling community transmission has a demonstrated positive impact on the course of the COVID-19 epidemic, and reduces the strain on hospitals, emergency medical services, ambulance and patient transport service, and other essential public health services.

5. An increasing degree of public pressure has been directed at schools, employers and other organizations to ignore the significant public health benefit of quarantine and permit active participation of close contacts in school, sports, the workplace and other public events, despite the increased risk such conduct poses to specific populations or community transmission of COVID-19 during the current epidemic in St. Clair County.

6. If failure to quarantine becomes widespread the control of community transmission will become a more significant public health problem.

7. Schools, employers, and other organizations have asked the St. Clair County Public Health Department for guidance concerning the quarantine of close contacts.

8. COVID-19 is unique as a communicable disease in that every person that eventually becomes infected with COVID-19 is able to transmit the disease to others for at least a 48 hour period before they become symptomatic, or otherwise have any reason to know that they can make other people sick; and, at least 20% (and in some populations as many as 40%) of all know positive cases will never become symptomatic, yet they are fully able to transmit the disease and make other people sick.

9. Since March 16, 2020, St. Clair County has experienced 34,652 laboratory confirmed positive cases of COVID-19. As of January 14, 2022, St. Clair County has a 7-day test positivity rate of 36%, and a 7-day new case per 100,000 count of 1,273. These statistics indicate both epidemic level contagion and substantial community transmission.

10. Because a close contact is able to infect others with COVID-19 before they or the St. Clair County Public Health Department, have a reasonable basis to believe that they harbor the specific infectious agent that causes COVID-19, certain procedures are required, including the quarantine of healthy persons who have been close contacts of probable or known positive COVID-19 cases.

11. These procedures, and restrictions on public gatherings of close contacts are necessary to maintain the public health of the citizens of St. Clair County, and control the COVID-19 epidemic.

Based on the preceding determinations it is highly recommended by the St Clair County Health Department that the public follow the quarantine guidance published on January 9, 2022. A direct link to the guidance can be found at <https://bit.ly/3l6mokE>

Separate guidance apply to K-12 schools and healthcare workers.

- 1. K-12 schools have the option to reduce quarantine durations when masking protocols are employed within K-12 educational settings. The St. Clair County Health Department recommends students, teachers, & staff follow the quarantine guidance published on December 3, 2021 by the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS).
A direct link to the guidance can be found at <https://bit.ly/3zCs3w0>**
- 2. Due to concerns about increased transmissibility of the Omicron variant, the St. Clair County Health Department endorses the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) updated guidance for healthcare personnel (HCP). The information addresses concerns about potential impacts on the healthcare system given a surge of COVID-19 infections.
A direct link to the guidance can be found at: <https://bit.ly/3f0lj1n>**



Medical Health Officer
St. Clair County Public Health Department

Date and Time Signed: January 14, 2022 @ 12:00 pm