

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 known 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 27,881 laboratory confirmed positive cases of COVID-19. As of December 8th, 2021, St. Clair County has a 7-day test positivity rate of 26.1%, and a 7-day new case per 100,000 count of 834.5. 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.

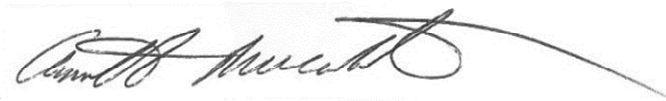
11. These procedures, and restrictions on public gatherings of close contacts are necessary to maintain the public health of the citizens of St. Clair County, and control the COVID-19 epidemic.

Based on the preceding determinations it is highly recommended by the St Clair County Health Department:

- A. Any individual who resides, attends school or is employed within St. Clair County that is unvaccinated but is masked along with the infected individual at the time of exposure is advised to quarantine for ten (10) days, or 7 days with a negative test on day 5 or greater, or attend work/school if wearing a mask for 14 days after exposure and using a "Test to Stay" strategy. The "Test to Stay" approach requires testing every other day for 7 days after exposure. Facilities and individuals should ensure accessibility to testing before choosing this option. Additionally, all exposed persons should remain masked in public settings for 14 days following the exposure.
- B. An unvaccinated individual who comes in close contact with someone who is COVID-19 positive where one or both parties are unmasked, is advised to quarantine for ten (10) days, or 7 days with a negative test on day 5 or greater. Additionally, all exposed persons should remain masked in public settings for 14 days following the exposure.
- C. A fully vaccinated individual who comes in close contact with someone who is COVID-19 positive can remain in school/work if they wear a mask and monitor for symptoms for 14 days after their exposure. They should test for COVID-19 5 to 7 days after their last exposure to the COVID-19 positive person. This applies to individuals who were both masked and unmasked at the time of exposure. Additionally, all exposed persons should remain masked in public settings for 14 days following the exposure.
- D. If the exposed individual tests positive, regardless of vaccination status, then the individual should isolate for 10 days from the onset of symptoms or in the absence of symptoms, from the date of the positive test. Additionally, if an exposed individual

becomes ill while in quarantine they should seek COVID testing and remain isolated until a test confirms lack of COVID illness AND symptoms have improved.

- E. Upon request, confirmed and probable cases, businesses, schools, and other facilities must provide the names and phone numbers of individuals with possible COVID-19 exposure to MDHHS and local health departments to aid in contact tracing and case investigation efforts.
- F. The quarantine should occur at the person's home, or at such other location, that will permit them to refrain from public contact or gatherings, whether indoors or outdoors.
- G. The quarantine should occur in the manner recommended by the CDC Guidelines and approved by the medical health officer, at the time the contact occur.



Medical Health Officer
St. Clair County Public Health Department

Date and Time Signed: December 15, 2021 @ 3:00 pm

