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TO: All Staff
FROM: Helen E. Hanks, Commissioner
Paul D. Raymond, Jr., Director
DATE: March 4, 2022
REF: Updated COVID Protocols at NH DOC

On February 10, 2022, the CDC updated their *Interim Guidance on Management of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Correctional and Detention Facilities*¹. The most significant change was reducing quarantine and isolation durations during routine operations from 14 days to 10 days.

The CDC explicitly refers to “shortening quarantine or isolation during crisis-level operations” as part of the updated guidance. According to the CDC, staffing shortages that threaten to compromise the safety and security of the facility or the continuity of essential operations are considered crisis-level operations¹.

After reviewing the updated guidance and considering the Department’s current staffing crisis, the New Hampshire Department of Corrections is immediately adopting the General Public Quarantine and Isolation Guidelines² for all staff and maintaining the Correctional and Detention Facilities Guidance¹ for residents. This change falls under the flexibility provided in crisis-level operations.

In summary, a staff member exposed to COVID-19 but does not have any symptoms (regardless of vaccination status) will not have to quarantine but is expected to wear a well-fitted mask for ten (10) days following the exposure. A staff member that tests positive or has symptoms will isolate for a full five (5) days before returning to work and is expected to wear a well-fitted mask until 10 days following the exposure.

Residents at the NH State Prison for Men, NH Correctional Facility for Women, and the Northern NH Correctional Facility will quarantine for ten (10) days after exposure if they are not up to date on COVID-19 vaccinations; however, an exposed resident does not have to quarantine if they are up to date and have no symptoms. A resident who tests positive will isolate for ten (10) full days and until fever-free for 24 hours with improving symptoms.

Residents at the transitional housing units and transitional work center will follow community-based guidelines unless and until they are moved to a prison facility.

The charts on the following pages further break down the updated guidelines depending on exposure and vaccination status.

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/correction-detention/guidance-correctional-detention.html>

² <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html>

STAFF:	
If exposed to COVID-19 but without symptoms, regardless of vaccination status:	<p>No Quarantine No time out of work is required.</p> <p>No Test Required No test to return to work is required.</p> <p>Wear a Mask Wear a well-fitted mask when you return to work until at least 10-days following your last exposure.</p>
Test positive for COVID-19 or have symptoms, regardless of vaccination status:	<p>Isolate Isolate out of work for 5 full days <u>AND</u> until you are fever-free for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medication) and your symptoms are improving.</p> <p>Wear a Mask Wear a well-fitted mask when you return to work until at least 10-days following your last exposure.</p>

RESIDENTS of NH State Prison for Men, NH Correctional Facility for Women, and Northern NH Correctional Facility:	
If exposed to COVID-19 and are NOT up to date on COVID-19 vaccinations:	<p>Quarantine Quarantine for 10 full days. Cohorted quarantine is acceptable.</p> <p>Wear a Mask Wear a well-fitted mask until at least 10-days following last exposure.</p>
If exposed to COVID-19 and are up to date on COVID-19 vaccinations:	<p>No Quarantine No quarantine is required unless symptomatic.</p> <p>Wear a Mask Wear a well-fitted mask until at least 10-days following last exposure.</p>
If exposed to COVID-19 and had confirmed COVID-19 within the past 90 days:	<p>No Quarantine No quarantine is required unless symptomatic.</p> <p>Wear a Mask Wear a well-fitted mask until at least 10-days following last exposure.</p>
Test positive for COVID-19 or have symptoms, regardless of vaccination status:	<p>Isolate Isolate out for 10 full days <u>AND</u> until you are fever-free for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medication) and your symptoms are improving.</p>

RESIDENTS of Transitional Work Center and Transitional Housing Units:	
If exposed to COVID-19 and are NOT up to date on COVID-19 vaccinations:	<p>Quarantine Quarantine for 5 full days.</p> <p>Wear a Mask Wear a well-fitted mask until at least 10-days following last exposure.</p>
If exposed to COVID-19 and are up to date on COVID-19 vaccinations:	<p>No Quarantine No quarantine is required unless symptomatic.</p> <p>Wear a Mask Wear a well-fitted mask until at least 10-days following last exposure.</p>
If exposed to COVID-19 and had confirmed COVID-19 within the past 90 days:	<p>No Quarantine No quarantine is required unless symptomatic.</p> <p>Wear a Mask Wear a well-fitted mask until at least 10-days following last exposure.</p>
Test positive for COVID-19 or have symptoms, regardless of vaccination status:	<p>Isolate Isolate out for 5 full days AND until you are fever-free for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medication) and your symptoms are improving.</p>

DEFINITIONS:	
Calculating Isolation	Day 0 is the first day of symptoms or a positive test. Day 1 is the first full day after symptoms developed or test specimen was collected.
Calculating Quarantine	The date of exposure if considered day 0. Day 1 is the first full day after your last contact with a person who has COVID-19.
Isolation	For people who are sick or who have tested positive for the COVID-19 virus.
Quarantine	For people who have been exposed to the COVID-19 virus and are at risk for developing infection.
“Up to date” on COVID-19 vaccination	A person is “up to date” on COVID-19 vaccination when they have completed a primary COVID-19 vaccine series (the single-dose J&J Janssen vaccine, or a 2-dose series of the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccine) AND any booster shots which they are eligible for and recommended to receive.