**COVID-19 Guidance & Information for Businesses**

***\*Current as of 1/15/2022***

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**Testing**

### Who should get tested?

* People who have [symptoms of COVID-19](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html).
* People who have come into [close contact](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/contact-tracing-plan/appendix.html) with someone with COVID-19
  + People who have been exposed regardless of vaccination status should be tested on day 5 after exposure, click [here](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html) for quarantine guidance
* People not fully vaccinated with COVID-19 vaccine who are prioritized for expanded [community screening](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/testing-overview.html) for COVID-19.
* People not fully vaccinated with COVID-19 vaccine who have been asked or referred to get testing by their school, workplace, healthcare provider.

**Symptoms of COVID-19**

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. Anyone can have mild to severe symptoms. People with [these symptoms](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html) may have COVID-19:

* Fever or chills
* Cough
* Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
* Fatigue
* Muscle or body aches
* Headache
* New loss of taste or smell
* Sore throat
* Congestion or runny nose
* Nausea or vomiting
* Diarrhea

This list does not include all possible symptoms. CDC will continue to update this list as they learn more about COVID-19. Older adults and people who have severe underlying medical conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes seem to be at higher risk for developing more serious complications from COVID-19 illness.

**Recommendations**

Algorithm Using Antigen Tests for SARS-CoV-2 in Community Settings from <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/resources/antigen-tests-guidelines.html>

If an individual is symptomatic of COVID-19, and receives negative results from a rapid antigen test, ***the individual should have a PCR test to confirm***. If an individual is experiencing symptoms, negative rapid antigen results alone are not enough to allow the individual to return to work. The individual should remain in isolation until 5 days have passed since symptoms began (the day symptoms began is day “zero”) and symptoms have improved, including being fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications. The individual may leave isolation after all criteria has been met, however, they must be masked for the 5 days following isolation.

**Testing Locations & Information***\*Please note, this is not an all-inclusive list of testing sites located within Randolph County. Please visit NC DHHS Find My Testing Place to find the nearest COVID-19 testing place for your location.*

* **NC DHHS *Find My Testing Place:***To order at-home test kits, or to find the nearest COVID-19 testing site, visit [https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/about-covid-19/testing/find-my-testing-place](https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/about-covid-19/testing/find-my-testing-place%20)
* **StarMed (3 sites in Randolph County)***\*\*Preregistration is not required, but is strongly recommended. Visit* [*https://starmed.care/*](https://starmed.care/) *or text the word COVID to 704-850-6996 to preregister\*\*****NOTE:******Inclement weather & holiday’s may impact operation*  
    
  First United Methodist Church (Asheboro)**224 N. Fayetteville Street Asheboro, NC 27203  
  **Hours of operation:**Monday-Friday 12p-6p, Saturday 11a-2p **Randolph Community College – Archdale location**110 Park Drive Archdale, NC 27263  
  **Hours of operation:**Tuesday & Thursday *only* 10a-2p  
    
  **Randolph Community College – Asheboro location**629 Industrial Park Avenue Asheboro, NC 27205  
  **Hours of operation:**Monday, Wednesday & Friday *only* 3p-7p  
    
  **Cost:**If insured, patient will be asked to provide medical insurance information during the registration process.

If uninsured, cost will be filed under the CARES Act and will be provided at no-cost to the patient.  
  
**Testing availability (based on supply):**Rapid antigen (symptomatic patients)  
PCR

Flu

* **Central Piedmont Urgent Care (2 locations)**   
  **Randleman Location**  
  1011 High Point Street Randleman, NC 27317  
  336-498-0226

**Siler City Location**  
101 Walmart Supercenter Siler City, NC 27344  
919-663-3911

**Hours of operation:**Monday-Friday 8a-8p  
Saturday 8a-6p  
Sunday 10a-6p

**Cost:** If patient has insurance coverage, they must bring a copy of insurance card and valid photo ID (driver’s license).

If patient is uninsured, as long as they are able to provide a valid photo ID (driver’s license) **AND** have a SSN (Social Security Number), any cost associated with COVID-19 (visit & testing charge) will be filed under the CARES Act and will be provided at no-cost to the patient.  
  
**Testing availability (based on supply):**Rapid antigen  
PCR

**For more information**, please visit <https://www.centralpiedmonturgentcare.com/>

* **White Oak Urgent Care (2 locations)  
  Asheboro location**197 North Carolina 42 Asheboro, NC 27203  
  336-625-2560  
    
  **Randleman location**  
  608 West Academy Street Randleman, NC 27317  
  336-495-1001  
    
  **Hours of operation:**Monday-Friday 8a-8p  
  Saturday 9a-6p  
  Sunday 10a-6p  
  *\*Offices are closed on Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas Day***Cost:**If patient is insured, insurance will be billed and patient will be responsible for paying copay for Urgent Care visit. Additionally, there may be additional charges for rapid testing.  
    
  If patient is uninsured, patient will be responsible for paying office visit charge (minimum of $100) and any additional charge for testing, etc.  
    
  **Testing availability (based on supply):**Rapid antigen  
  PCR

**Isolation & Quarantine**

**If You Test Positive for COVID-19 (Isolate), everyone, regardless of vaccination status:**

* Stay home for 5 days.
* If you have no symptoms or your symptoms are resolving after 5 days, you can leave your house. *Must be fever free for 24 hours without use of fever reducing medication.*
* Continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.

*If you have a fever, continue to stay home until your fever resolves.*

**If You Were Exposed to Someone with COVID-19 (Quarantine)**

***Who Does NOT Need to Quarantine***If you came into close contact with someone with COVID-19 and you are in one of the following groups, you do not need to quarantine.

* You are ages 18 or older and have received all [recommended vaccine doses](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/booster-shot.html), including [boosters](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/booster-shot.html) and [additional primary shots](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/immuno.html) for some immunocompromised people.
* You are ages 5-17 years and completed the [primary series](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fvaccines%2Fcovid-19%2Finfo-by-product%2Fclinical-considerations.html#children) of COVID-19 vaccines.
* **You had confirmed COVID-19 within the last 90 days (you tested positive using a**[**viral test**](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/testing.html)**).**

You should wear a [well-fitting mask](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/effective-masks.html) around others for 10 days from the date of your last close contact with someone with COVID-19 (the date of last close contact is considered day 0). [Get tested](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/testing/diagnostic-testing.html) at least 5 days after you last had close contact with someone with COVID-19. If you test positive or develop COVID-19 symptoms, isolate from other people and follow recommendations in the [Isolation](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html#_Isolation) section below. If you tested positive for COVID-19 with a [viral test](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/testing.html) within the previous 90 days and subsequently recovered and remain without COVID-19 symptoms, you do not need to quarantine or get tested after close contact. You should wear a [well-fitting mask](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/effective-masks.html) around others for 10 days from the date of your last close contact with someone with COVID-19 (the date of last close contact is considered day 0).

***Who Should Quarantine***

If you come into close contact with someone with COVID-19, you should quarantine if you are in one of the following groups:

* You are ages 18 or older and completed the [primary series](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fvaccines%2Fcovid-19%2Finfo-by-product%2Fclinical-considerations.html) of recommended vaccine, but have not received a [recommended](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/booster-shot.html) booster shot when eligible.
* You received the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine (completing the primary series) over 2 months ago and have not received a [recommended](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/booster-shot.html) booster shot.
* You are not vaccinated or have not completed a [primary vaccine series](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fvaccines%2Fcovid-19%2Finfo-by-product%2Fclinical-considerations.html).

***What to do for Quarantine***

* Stay home and away from other people for at least 5 days (day 0 through day 5) after your last contact with a person who has COVID-19. The date of your exposure is considered day 0. Wear a [well-fitting mask](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/effective-masks.html) when around others at home, if possible.
* For 10 days after your last close contact with someone with COVID-19, watch for fever (100.4◦F or greater), cough, shortness of breath, or other [COVID-19 symptoms](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html) .
* If you develop symptoms, [get tested](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/testing/diagnostic-testing.html) immediately and isolate until you receive your test results. If you test positive, follow [isolation](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html#isolation) recommendations.
* If you do not develop symptoms, [get tested](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/testing/diagnostic-testing.html) at least 5 days after you last had close contact with someone with COVID-19.
  + If you test negative, you can leave your home, but continue to wear a [well-fitting mask](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/effective-masks.html) when around others at home and in public until 10 days after your last close contact with someone with COVID-19.
  + If you test positive, you should isolate for at least 5 days from the date of your positive test (if you do not have symptoms). If you do develop [COVID-19 symptoms](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html), isolate for at least 5 days from the date your symptoms began (the date the symptoms started is day 0). Follow recommendations in the [isolation](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html#_Isolation) section below.
  + If you are unable to get a test 5 days after last close contact with someone with COVID-19, you can leave your home after day 5 if you have been without [COVID-19 symptoms](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html) throughout the 5-day period. Wear a [well-fitting mask](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/effective-masks.html) for 10 days after your date of last close contact when around others at home and in public.
  + Avoid people who are [immunocompromised or at high risk for severe disease](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html), and nursing homes and other high-risk settings, until after at least 10 days.
* If possible, stay away from people you live with, especially people who are at [higher risk](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/index.html) for getting very sick from COVID-19, as well as others outside your home throughout the full 10 days after your last close contact with someone with COVID-19.
* If you are unable to quarantine, you should wear a [well-fitting mask](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/effective-masks.html) for 10 days when around others at home and in public.
* If you are unable to wear a mask when around others, you should continue to quarantine for 10 days. Avoid people who are [immunocompromised or at high risk for severe disease](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html), and nursing homes and other high-risk settings, until after at least 10 days.
* Do not travel during your 5-day quarantine period. Get tested at least 5 days after your last close contact and make sure your test result is negative and you remain without symptoms before traveling. If you don’t get tested, delay travel until 10 days after your last close contact with a person with COVID-19. If you must travel before the 10 days are completed, wear a [well-fitting mask](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/effective-masks.html) when you are around others for the entire duration of travel during the 10 days. If you are unable to wear a mask, you should not travel during the 10 days.
* Do not go to places where you are unable to wear a mask, such as restaurants and some gyms, and avoid eating around others at home and at work until after 10 days after your last close contact with someone with COVID-19.

***After Quarantine***

* Watch for symptoms until 10 days after your last close contact with someone with COVID-19.
* If you have symptoms, isolate immediately and [get tested](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/testing/diagnostic-testing.html).

[Click here](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html) for the updated quarantine and isolation guidance.

***Calculating Isolation & Quarantine Time***

Calculating **Isolation** period (for those that test positive):

* Day 0 is your first day of symptoms or a positive viral test. **Day 1 is the first full day after your symptoms developed, or if no symptoms, the date your test specimen was collected**. If you have COVID-19 or have symptoms, isolate for at least 5 full days. Follow mask wearing guidelines for the 5 days following isolation.

Calculating **Quarantine** period (for those who have been exposed):

* The date of your exposure is considered day 0. **Day 1 is the first full day after your last contact with a person who has had COVID-19.** Stay home and away from other people for at least 5 full days. If you begin to experience symptoms at any time during quarantine, get tested and isolate. If no symptoms are present, follow mask wearing guidelines for 5 days following quarantine.

For additional information on calculating isolation & quarantine time, please click [here](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html).

**Prevention**

**COVID-19 Prevention**

The best way to slow the spread of COVID-19 continues to be:

* Get vaccinated (including booster shot, if eligible) visit [*Find a Vaccine Location Near You*](https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/vaccines)
* Wear a face covering indoors in public places, **regardless of vaccination status**
* Practice social distancing
* Stay home if you’re sick and get tested
* Test before and after traveling or when gathering with others not in your household
* Visit [*NCDHHS*](https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/information/business/businesses-and-employers)for additional guidance, toolkits, and information

**Cleaning & Disinfecting Your Facility**

**Cleaning & Disinfecting Your Facility**

The virus that causes COVID-19 can land on surfaces. It’s possible for people to become infected if they touch those surfaces and then touch their nose, mouth, or eyes. In most situations, the [risk of infection from touching a surface is low](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/more/science-and-research/surface-transmission.html). The most reliable way to prevent infection from surfaces is to [regularly wash hands with soap and water or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer](https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html). Cleaning and disinfecting surfaces can also reduce the risk of infection.

This guidance is indicated for buildings in community settings and is **not** intended for [healthcare settings](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control.html) or for [other facilities](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html#other-facilities) where specific regulations or practices for cleaning and disinfection may apply. Additionally, this guidance only applies to cleaning and disinfection to prevent the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19. It does not apply to any cleaning or disinfection needed to prevent the spread of other germs. Always follow standard practices and appropriate regulations specific to your type of facility for minimum standards for cleaning and disinfection.

## **When to Clean and When to Disinfect**

Cleaning with products containing soap or detergent reduces germs on surfaces by removing contaminants and decreases risk of infection from surfaces.

If no one with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 has been in a space [cleaning once a day is usually enough](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/more/science-and-research/surface-transmission.html) to remove virus that may be on surfaces. This also helps maintain a healthy facility.

Disinfecting using [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)’s List N disinfectants](https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-coronavirus-covid-19) kills any remaining germs on surfaces, which further reduces any risk of spreading infection.

You may want to either clean more frequently or choose to disinfect in addition to cleaning in shared spaces if the space:

* Is a high traffic area, with a large number of people.
* Is [poorly ventilated](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/ventilation.html).
* Does not provide access to handwashing or hand sanitizer.
* Is occupied by people at [increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html).

If a sick person or someone who tested positive for COVID-19 has been in your facility within the last 24 hours, you should clean **AND** disinfect the space.

**Routine Cleaning**

*Develop Your Plan – Determine What Needs to be Cleaned*

Consider the [type of surface](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html#anchor_1617551609730) and how often the surface is touched. Generally, the more people who touch a surface, the higher the risk. Prioritize cleaning high-touch surfaces at least once a day. If the space is a high traffic area, or if certain conditions (listed above) apply, you may choose to clean more frequently or disinfect in addition to cleaning. Many cleaning products also include disinfectants. If you want to use cleaning products with disinfectants, choose those products listed on [EPA List N.](https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/about-list-n-disinfectants-coronavirus-covid-19-0)

*Implement – Clean High Touch Surfaces*

Clean high-touch surfaces at least once a day or as often as determined is necessary. Examples of high-touch surfaces include pens, counters, shopping carts, tables, doorknobs, light switches, handles, stair rails, elevator buttons, desks, keyboards, phones, toilets, faucets, and sinks.

**Protect Yourself and Other Cleaning Staff**

* Ensure cleaning staff are trained on proper use of cleaning and disinfecting products.
* Read the instructions on the product label to determine what safety precautions are necessary while using the product. This could include personal protective equipment (PPE), such as gloves, glasses, or goggles, additional ventilation, or other precautions.
* [Wash your hands](https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html) with soap and water for 20 seconds after cleaning. Be sure to wash your hands immediately after removing gloves.
  + If hands are visibly dirty, always wash hands with soap and water.
  + If soap and water are not available and hands are not visibly dirty, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol, and wash with soap and water as soon as you can.
* Special considerations should be made for people with asthma. Some cleaning and disinfection products can trigger asthma. Learn more about [reducing your chance of an asthma attack](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/asthma.html) while disinfecting.

**Disinfect Safely When Needed**

**If you determine that regular disinfection may be needed**

* If your disinfectant product label does not specify that it can be used for both cleaning and disinfection, clean visibly dirty surfaces with soap or detergent before disinfection.
* Use a disinfectant product from the [EPA List N](https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-coronavirus-covid-19) that is effective against COVID-19. Check that the [EPA Registration number](https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/i-cant-tell-if-product-im-interested-list-or-not-can-you-help-me) on the product matches the registration number in the List N search tool. See [Tips on using the List N Tool](https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/infographic-tips-using-list-n-tool).
  + If products on [EPA List N Disinfectants for Coronavirus (COVID-19)external icon](https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/about-list-n-disinfectants-coronavirus-covid-19-0) are not available, [bleach solutions](https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/emergency/hygiene-handwashing-diapering/household-cleaning-sanitizing.html) can be used if appropriate for the surface.
* **Always follow the directions on the label**to ensure safe and effective use of the product. The label will include safety information and application instructions. Keep disinfectants out of the reach of children. Many products recommend keeping the surface wet with a disinfectant for a certain period (see “contact time” on the product label).
  + Check the product label to see what PPE (such as gloves, glasses, or goggles) is required based on potential hazards.
  + Ensure adequate ventilation (for example, open windows).
  + Use only the amount recommended on the label.
  + If diluting with water is indicated for use, use water at room temperature (unless stated otherwise on the label).
  + Label diluted cleaning or disinfectant solutions.
  + Store and use chemicals out of the reach of children and pets.
  + Do not mix products or chemicals.
  + Do not eat, drink, breathe, or inject cleaning and disinfection products into your body or apply directly to your skin. They can cause serious harm.
  + Do not wipe or bathe people or pets with any surface cleaning and disinfection products.

See [EPA’s Six Steps for Safe and Effective Disinfectant Use](https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/six-steps-safe-effective-disinfectant-use)

**Clean and Disinfect Specific Types of Surfaces**

*Soft surfaces such as carpet, rugs, and drapes*

* Clean the surface using a product containing soap, detergent, or other type of cleaner appropriate for use on these surfaces.
* Launder items (if possible) according to the manufacturer’s instructions. Use the warmest appropriate water setting and dry items completely.
* If you need to disinfect, use a product from [EPA List N](https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-coronavirus-covid-19)  approved for use on soft surfaces.
* Vacuum as usual.

*Laundry such as clothing, towels, and linens*

* Use the warmest appropriate water setting and dry items completely.
* It is safe to wash dirty laundry from a person who is sick with other people’s items.
* If handling dirty laundry from a person who is sick, wear gloves and a [mask](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html).
* Clean clothes hampers or laundry baskets according to guidance for surfaces.
* Wash hands after handling dirty laundry.

*Electronics such as tablets, touch screens, keyboards, remote controls, and ATM machines*

* Consider putting a wipeable cover on electronics, which makes cleaning and disinfecting easier.
* Follow the manufacturer’s instructions and recommendations for cleaning the electronic device.
* For electronic surfaces that need to be disinfected, use a product on [EPA List N](https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-coronavirus-covid-19) that meets manufacturer’s recommendations. Many of the products for electronics contain alcohol because it dries quickly.

*Outdoor areas*

* Spraying cleaning products or disinfectants in outdoor areas – such as on sidewalks, roads, or groundcover – is **not** necessary, effective, or recommended.
* High-touch surfaces made of plastic or metal, such as grab bars, play structures, and railings, should be cleaned regularly.
* Cleaning and disinfection of wooden surfaces (such as wood play structures, benches, tables) or groundcovers (such as mulch and sand) are not recommended.

## **Clean and Disinfect Your Facility When Someone Is Sick**

If a sick person or someone who tested positive for COVID-19 has been in your facility within the last 24 hours, you should clean and disinfect the spaces they occupied.

**Before cleaning and disinfecting**

* Close off areas used by the person who is sick and do not use those areas until after cleaning and disinfecting.
* Wait as long as possible (at least several hours) before you clean and disinfect.

**While cleaning and disinfecting**

* Open doors and windows and use fans or HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) settings to [increase air circulation in the area](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/ventilation.html).
* Use products from[EPA List N](https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-coronavirus-covid-19) according to the instructions on the product label.
* [Wear a mask](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html) and gloves while cleaning and disinfecting.
* Focus on the immediate areas occupied by the person who is sick or diagnosed with COVID-19 unless they have already been cleaned and disinfected.
* Vacuum the space if needed. Use a vacuum equipped with high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter and bags, if available.
  + While vacuuming, temporarily turn off in-room, window-mounted, or on-wall recirculation HVAC systems to avoid contamination of HVAC units.
  + Do NOT deactivate central HVAC systems. These systems provide better filtration capabilities and introduce outdoor air into the areas they serve.
* It is safe to wash dirty laundry from a person who is sick with COVID-19 with other people’s items.
* Ensure safe and correct use and storage of cleaning and disinfectant products, including storing such products securely and using PPE needed for the cleaning and disinfection products.

**If less than 24 hours have passed**since the person who is sick or diagnosed with COVID-19 has been in the space, clean and disinfect the space.

**If more than 24 hours have passed** since the person who is sick or diagnosed with COVID-19 has been in the space, cleaning is enough. You may choose to also disinfect depending on [certain conditions](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html#certain-conditions) or everyday practices required by your facility.

**If more than 3 days have passed** since the person who is sick or diagnosed with COVID-19 has been in the space, no additional cleaning (beyond regular cleaning practices) is needed.

## For Additional Considerations for Employers and Facility Operators, or for additional information on cleaning and disinfecting your facility, please click [here](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html).

**Glossary**

**Antigen Test:** Rapid antigen tests, which detect protein on the surface of the virus, are less sensitive and less specific than a PCR/molecular test. This means they miss some infections that would be detected by a PCR/molecular test, and they may be positive in someone who does not actually have the infection. However, they can be performed without having to send the sample to a laboratory and results come back quickly (e.g., approximately 15 minutes). For this test, a sample may be collected through a nasal swab, and the test can be conducted inside a doctor’s office, a drive thru testing site, or with an at home test kit.

**Asymptomatic:** Not showing any symptoms (signs of disease or illness). Some people without any symptoms still have and can spread the coronavirus. They’re asymptomatic, but contagious.

**Close Contact:** Someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period starting from 2 days before symptoms began (or, for asymptomatic individuals, 2 days prior to test specimen collection date) until the time the individual is isolated.

**Cluster:** Five or more positive COVID-19 cases in a setting within 14 days of one another, that have an epidemiological linkage between them (e.g., presumed COVID-19 transmission within work areas, shifts, etc.) Note: An “outbreak” is a specific term used for a congregate living setting, such as a nursing home, when there are two or more cases connected to each other. A cluster and an outbreak are not the same thing.

**Communicable:** Similar in meaning as “contagious.” Used to describe diseases that can be spread or transmitted from one person to another.

**Community Spread:** The spread of an illness within a location, like a neighborhood or town. During community spread, there’s no clear source of contact or infection.

**Confirmed Case:** Someone tested and confirmed to have COVID-19. Coronavirus: A family of related viruses. Many of them cause respiratory illnesses. Coronaviruses cause COVID-19, SARS, MERS, and some strains of influenza, or flu. The coronavirus that causes COVID-19 is officially called SARS-CoV-2, which stands for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2.

**COVID-19:** The name of the illness caused by the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2. COVID-19 stands for “coronavirus disease 2019.”

**Exposure:** Being within 6 feet of someone diagnosed with COVID-19 for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more, over a 24-hour period.

**Fully vaccinated:** Status of a person two weeks after receiving the last dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. (Second dose of a 2-dose vaccine, or 1st dose of one-dose vaccine.)

**Incubation Period:** The time it takes for someone with an infection to start showing symptoms. For COVID-19, symptoms appear 2-14 days after infection.

**Isolation:** When someone tests positive for COVID-19 or is presumed to be positive, they separate (isolate) themselves from others for 5 days to make sure they do not spread the virus. If they have no symptoms or their symptoms resolve by day 5, they can end isolation but should continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days. This is not the same thing as quarantining, which is for someone who is NOT known to be positive with COVID but has had a close contact.

**Local Health Department:** An administrative or service unit of local or state government concerned with health and carrying out some responsibility for the health of a jurisdiction smaller than the state.

**PCR Testing:** Polymerase chain reaction (PCR)/ molecular tests detect the virus’s genetic material. This test is the “gold standard” for detecting the virus that causes COVID-19 and typically requires a sample being sent to a laboratory. For this test, it is most common that samples are collected through a nasal or throat swab.

**Pandemic:** When a new disease spreads to many countries around the world.

**Physical Distancing:** Also called *social distancing*. It means consistently putting space between yourself and other people. The goal is to slow down how fast an infection spreads. The CDC recommends keeping at least six feet between adults. Physical distancing also includes avoiding crowds and groups in public.

**PPE:** PPE Stands for personal protective equipment. This includes masks, face shields, gloves, gowns and other coverings that help prevent the spread of infection.

**Presumptive Positive Case:** A person who has COVID-19 symptoms but has not been confirmed positive by a health care provider or through a PCR/molecular test.

**Quarantine:** Quarantine refers to the time spent away from other people by an individual who has been in close contact (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes cumulatively over a 24-hour period) with someone who is positive with COVID-19. A person exposed to COVID-19 should quarantine for at least 5 days after exposure. This is not the same thing as isolation, which is for someone who is known to be positive with COVID-19.

**Symptom Screening:** A series of basic questions about a person’s health condition and recent potential exposure to someone who has had COVID19. This is not the same thing as a COVID-19 test. Symptom screenings are optional but recommended.

**Social Distancing:** Also called physical distancing. It means consistently putting space between yourself and other people. The goal is to slow down how fast an infection spreads. The CDC recommends keeping at least six feet between you and others around you in public. Social distancing also includes avoiding crowds and groups in public.

**Symptomatic:** When a person shows signs of illness. For COVID-19, that includes new cough, fever, shortness of breath, or new loss of taste or smell.

**Testing:** Testing is used to diagnose cases of COVID-19. Anyone with COVID-19 symptoms, those who have been around others with symptoms or others who have tested positively, and high-risk members of the population should consider testing for COVID-19. The most common tests are the molecular PCR test and the antigen test, both of which seek to determine whether a person currently is infected with COVID-19. The NCDHHS hosts testing sites regularly throughout the state.