



**Orange County**

**ATTENTION**

**STEVEN M. NEUHAUS**  
County Executive

**PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT**

**Dr. Irina Gelman, DPM, MPH, PhDc**  
Commissioner of Health

**January 24, 2022**

**PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO AND POST CONSPICUOUSLY IN PEDIATRIC, FAMILY PRACTICE, PRIMARY CARE, EMERGENCY ROOM, INTERNAL MEDICINE, URGENT CARE, INFECTIOUS DISEASE, OB/GYN, AMBULATORY SERVICES, LABORATORIES, AMBULATORY CARE STAFF, HOSPITALS, NURSING HOMES, ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES, SKILLED -NURSING FACILITIES, LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES, CONGREGATE LIVING SETTINGS, MUNICIPALITIES, COUNTY STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS, SENIOR ORGANIZATIONS, BUSINESSES AND ALL SCHOOLS AND EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES, AND ORANGE COUNTY RESIDENTS.**

**PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT #1**  
**COVID-19 Isolation and Quarantine Update**

Orange County is currently experiencing record numbers of COVID-19 cases. As of January 23<sup>rd</sup>, Orange County has seen over 100,000 cases since the beginning of the pandemic and the 7-day rolling average was approximately 500 cases per day. New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) updated their isolation and quarantine guidance as of January 14<sup>th</sup>. The full guidance can be found under Guidance & FAQs on the NYSDOH website: <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/new-york-state-contact-tracing>. Orange County Department of Health (OCDOH) has adopted the shortened isolation and quarantine as outlined by NYSDOH. The OCDOH website has been updated to reflect all updated guidance.

**Isolation**

Persons who test positive regardless of vaccination status must isolate for 5 full days where day 0 is the date of symptom onset or, if **asymptomatic**, the date of collection of the first positive specimen. For people who had symptoms but were not hospitalized for COVID-19, isolation ends after 5 full days if the individual is fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and other symptoms have improved. All persons testing positive should continue to wear a well-fitting mask around others at home and in public for 5 additional days (day 6 through day 10) after the end of the 5-day isolation period. Anyone who cannot wear a well-fitting mask, including everyone under the age of 2, must complete 10 days of isolation, where day 0 is the date of symptom onset or date of the collection of the first positive specimen. Additional guidance from NYSDOH regarding isolation is available here: [https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2022/01/Quarantine%20and%20Isolation%20Guidance\\_1.14.22.pdf](https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2022/01/Quarantine%20and%20Isolation%20Guidance_1.14.22.pdf)

**Quarantine**

New York State has changed the parameters for COVID-19 quarantine. Persons who are unvaccinated, have not completed their [primary vaccine series](#), or anyone 12 years and older who completed their

primary vaccine series and is eligible for a booster but has not yet received it, should quarantine for at least 5 days (day 0 through day 5) after the date of the last contact with a person who has COVID-19. The date of contact (exposure) is considered day 0. **Anyone who cannot wear a well-fitting mask, including everyone under the age of 2, must complete 10 days of quarantine.** Additional guidance from NYSDOH regarding quarantine is available here:

[https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2022/01/Quarantine%20and%20Isolation%20Guidance\\_1.14.22.pdf](https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2022/01/Quarantine%20and%20Isolation%20Guidance_1.14.22.pdf)

The January 4, 2022 NYSDOH [Interim Advisory on Return-to-Work Protocols for Healthcare Workers](#) remains in effect.

Due to the overwhelming volume of cases, Orange County residents may not receive a call from OCDOH if they test positive for COVID19 or were exposed to COVID-19. OCDOH will no longer providing personalized isolation or quarantine orders. Standing orders are available on the website here: <https://www.orangecountygov.com/1936/Coronavirus>. NYSDOH now provides affirmation isolation and quarantine forms here: <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/new-york-state-contact-tracing> .

There will be no individualized isolation orders for persons who did not receive a provider-administered COVID-19 test (i.e. home tests). There is a letter available on the OCDOH website for persons who test positive to download in addition to the standing isolation order that can be printed out for employer proof for paid leave. This letter is specific to self-administered tests.

There will not be any isolation or quarantine clearance letters provided. NYSDOH now provides affirmation isolation and quarantine forms here: <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/new-york-state-contact-tracing> that can be filled out and given to an employer for paid leave.

For more information, please visit the Orange County website: [www.orangecountygov.com](http://www.orangecountygov.com) or call the Orange County Department of Health at (845) 291-2330.