



# HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

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Voice/Relay

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TO: Howard County Employees

FROM: Lonnie R. Robbins  
Chief Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Guidance Update

DATE: December 28, 2021

**This communication was sent via global email to Howard County employees on Tuesday, December 28, 2021 at 12:20 p.m.**

Dear Employees,

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has recently updated the guidance for isolation and quarantine related to an exposure to COVID-19. Howard County Government is adopting these new guidelines as part of our COVID protocols effective Tuesday, December 28, 2021.

The CDC is shortening the recommended time for isolation from 10 days to 5 days for people who have tested positive for COVID. If an employee is asymptomatic five days after a positive COVID test, they may return to work. Employees who return after five days should wear a face covering when around others either indoors or outdoors.

The CDC is also reducing the recommended quarantine period for those exposed to COVID-19. Employees who are not fully vaccinated and who have been directly exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID may return to work five days after the exposure as long as they are asymptomatic. Employees who return after five days should wear a face covering when around others either indoors or outdoors.

Employees who are fully vaccinated do not need to quarantine following an exposure as long as they are asymptomatic. It is recommended that they test for COVID at day five after an exposure.

**Fully vaccinated means that you are within six months from a second mRNA vaccine dose (less than 2 months after the J&J vaccine) or if longer, have received a booster.**

The change to the CDC guidance is motivated by science demonstrating that the majority of SARS-CoV-2 transmission occurs early in the course of illness, generally in the 1-2 days prior to onset of symptoms and the 2-3 days after.

Employees are required to wear a face covering inside all Howard County Buildings when in common areas or when interacting with the public or other employees. Employees should maintain physical distancing where possible and follow room capacity limits. Employees must not report to work when sick and should report any COVID exposures so that the above protocols may be followed.

We continue to urge all our employees to get vaccinated. If you've been vaccinated, but haven't received a booster, we urge you to get a booster as soon as possible. Vaccines are available at many pharmacies, through private providers, and through the Howard County Health Department. To schedule a vaccination or a booster, visit <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/health/covid-19-vaccine>.

Together we can manage this surge of COVID cases as we have managed this pandemic. I continue to be proud of the way that Howard County employees have worked together to keep all of us safe. If you have any questions related to the updated guidance, please feel free to contact John Peterson at [jpeterson@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:jpeterson@howardcountymd.gov) or by phone at X4439.

Thank you.

