



# PEF H&S Summary of the CDC New Interim Guidance for Fully Vaccinated People

On March 8, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued its first set of recommendations on which activities people who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 can safely resume. You can read the full recommendations here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>

The CDC will update their recommendations as more of the population becomes vaccinated. PEF endorses the continued use of COVID controls in all New York State agency workplaces, including the wearing of effective face coverings, lower density in workspaces, social distancing and cleaning/disinfection protocols until the CDC or NYS Department of Health determines that those controls are no longer required.

## What is considered "Fully Vaccinated"?

For the purposes of the CDC guidance, people are considered fully vaccinated for COVID-19 two weeks after they have received the second dose in a 2-dose series (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna), or two weeks after they have received a single-dose vaccine (Johnson and Johnson [J&J]/Janssen).

## Who does it apply to?

The following recommendations apply only to non-healthcare settings.

The CDC has not changed their guidance on COVID precautions for healthcare workers, whether or not they are vaccinated.

## What changed?

Fully vaccinated people can:

- Visit with other fully vaccinated people indoors without wearing masks or physical distancing;
- Visit with unvaccinated people from a single household who are at low risk for severe COVID-19 disease indoors without wearing masks or physical distancing;
- Refrain from quarantine and testing following a known exposure if asymptomatic; however, testing following an exposure and through routine workplace screening programs (if present) is still recommended.

## Do Fully Vaccinated people still need to follow COVID controls?

YES – According to the CDC, a growing body of evidence suggests that fully vaccinated people are less likely to have asymptomatic infections and are potentially less likely to transmit SARS-CoV-2 to others. Studies continue on how long vaccine protection lasts and how much vaccines protect against emerging SARS-CoV-2 variants. Until more is known and vaccination coverage increases, some prevention measures will continue to be necessary for all people, regardless of vaccination status.

For now, fully vaccinated people should continue to:

- Take precautions in public like wearing a well-fitted mask and physical distancing;
- Wear masks, practice physical distancing, and adhere to other prevention measures when visiting with unvaccinated people who are at increased risk for severe COVID-19 disease or who have an unvaccinated household member who is at increased risk for severe COVID-19 disease;
- Wear masks, maintain physical distance, and practice other prevention measures when visiting with unvaccinated people from multiple households;
- Avoid medium- and large-sized in-person gatherings;
- Get tested if experiencing COVID-19 symptoms;
- Follow guidance issued by individual employers;
- Follow CDC and health department travel requirements and recommendations

## What about congregate settings?

Fully vaccinated employees in non-healthcare congregate settings and other high-density workplaces (e.g., meat and poultry processing and manufacturing plants) with no COVID-like symptoms do not need to quarantine following an exposure; however, testing following an exposure and through routine workplace screening programs (if present) is still recommended.

Fully vaccinated residents of non-healthcare congregate settings (e.g., correctional and detention facilities, group homes) should continue to quarantine for 14 days and be tested for SARS-CoV-2 following an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19. This is because residential congregate settings may face high turnover of residents, a higher risk of transmission, and challenges in maintaining recommended physical distancing.

## What happens if a Fully Vaccinated person has an exposure?

Recommendations differ for Fully Vaccinated people with or without COVID-19 symptoms.

Although the risk that fully vaccinated people could become infected with COVID-19 is low, any fully vaccinated person who experiences symptoms consistent with COVID-19 following an exposure should isolate themselves from others, be clinically evaluated for COVID-19, and tested for SARS-CoV-2 if indicated. A symptomatic fully vaccinated person should inform their healthcare provider of their vaccination status when receiving healthcare.

Fully vaccinated people with no COVID-like symptoms following an exposure do not need to quarantine or be tested following an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19, as their risk of infection is low.

Fully vaccinated people who do not quarantine should still monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days following an exposure. If they experience symptoms, they should isolate themselves from others, be clinically evaluated for COVID-19, including SARS-CoV-2 testing, if indicated, and inform their health care provider of their vaccination status at the time of presentation to care.

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**Please contact us at [HealthAndSafety@pef.org](mailto:HealthAndSafety@pef.org) with any questions.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON COVID-19, including Workers Compensation and COVID, please visit <http://www.pef.org/covid>

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