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WeArePublicHealth.org

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February 23, 2021

Dear Public Health Partner,

As you are likely aware, the CDC has updated their [quarantine guidance](#) and also outlined has also released [operational guidance for K-12 schools](#). Updated quarantine recommendations reflect that persons who have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 do not need to quarantine after exposure to a person with COVID-19 for 90 days following the second vaccine dose. Operational guidance for K-12 schools outlines key mitigation strategies and recommendations to assist schools in transitioning to in-person learning. Maricopa County Department of Public Health has reviewed these updates and incorporated them into our guidance documents (attached).

1) Quarantine Guidance —

From today forward, close contacts who are fully vaccinated and meet the following criteria are not required to quarantine after exposure to a person with COVID-19:

- Received 2nd dose of a 2-dose vaccine series (or 1st/only dose of a 1-dose vaccine series) at least 14 days ago **and** not more than 90 days ago; and
- Have remained without symptoms since the current COVID-19 exposure.

Please note: even in the absence of quarantine, a person who has been exposed to COVID-19 should continue to monitor for symptoms for 14 days after their last exposure and wear a facemask.

Exceptions to this quarantine update include:

- Inpatients/residents in healthcare settings (i.e., hospitals, hospice, skilled nursing facilities) and inmates in jail/prison must quarantine for the full 14 days.
- Public Health may determine that people who are a part of an outbreak due to a variant strain of the virus that causes COVID-19 should quarantine for the full 14 days regardless of vaccination status.

2) K-12 Schools Guidance —

This guidance outlines mitigation recommendations for K-12 schools to prepare for and respond to community spread of coronavirus disease-2019 (COVID-19) based on [CDC mitigation strategies](#).

The operational strategy outlined here includes three essential components:

- Consistent implementation of **five key mitigation strategies** to reduce transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in schools;
- Indicators of **community transmission** to reflect level of community risk; and
- **Phased mitigation and learning modes** based on levels of community transmission.

Additional mitigation strategies to consider include:

1. **Testing** to identify individuals with COVID-19 infection to limit transmission and outbreaks;
and
2. **Vaccination** for teachers, staff, and communities as soon as supply allows.

Attached are our updated guidance documents and flowcharts in English, which are also available on our website. We are working to update all webpage language and documents, as well as translating the quarantine guidance document into Spanish. We appreciate your partnership.

Stay healthy and safe,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebecca Sunenshine". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Rebecca Sunenshine, MD, FIDSA
Medical Director, Disease Control