



## Chippewa County Department of Public Health

711 N Bridge Street, Room 121, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729  
P: 715.726.7900 / 1.800.400.3678 / F: 715.726.7910  
[www.co.chippewa.wi.us/ccdph](http://www.co.chippewa.wi.us/ccdph)



**To:** Chippewa County Business Owners  
**From:** Angela Weideman, Health Officer/Director  
**Date:** August 11, 2020  
**Re:** Isolation and Quarantine of Employee AND Statewide Mask Mandate AND FAQs

---

The goal of the Chippewa County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) is to help keep your employees and customers healthy and your business open during the pandemic. Below are a few updates related to COVID-19.

### Isolation and Quarantine

If an employee of your business tests positive for COVID-19, it can be a very stressful and confusing time. In order for an employee to return to work, one of the following things must happen:

- If your **employee tested positive**, the employee **must isolate for 10 days and be well for 24 hours (i.e., free of fever and improvement in other symptoms)**. A negative test after the initial positive test does not release the employee from isolation.
- If your **employee is a close contact** to a positive case, the employee **must quarantine for 14 days**. A negative test at any point during the 14 days does not release the employee from quarantine.

An employee must complete the full isolation and/or quarantine in order to return to work. A negative test does not allow them to return. This is because COVID-19 symptoms may appear anywhere from 2 to 14 days after being exposed. For example, an employee that is a close contact could have a negative test on day 5, but then get symptoms on day 12. Positive cases must isolate for 10 days and be 24 hours symptom free because data indicates that mild to moderate COVID-19 remain infectious no longer than 10 days after symptom onset.

If you would like to verify a positive case or a close contact to a positive case, the Health Department can provide your employee with a verification letter. Due to HIPAA reasons, CCDPH cannot disclose to an employer the name or status of a case. However, CCDPH can provide a verification letter to the positive case.

### Mask Mandate

On August 1, 2020, Governor Evers issued Emergency Order #1, which is effective through September 28, 2020. Emergency Order #1 requires that individuals wear face coverings when indoors or in an enclosed space, other than a private residence, and another person or persons who are not members of that individual's household or living unit are present in the same room or enclosed space. CCDPH asks that you comply with this mask mandate and encourage your customers and employees to comply, as well. According to the CDC, there is scientific evidence that face coverings will help stop the spread of COVID-19. By containing the spread, your employees and customers will remain healthy, and your business will be able to remain operational.

CCDPH is in charge of enforcement of the mask mandate. CCDPH has already received many calls from the community about businesses and individuals that are not following the mandate. First and foremost, CCDPH will be focusing on education. If an individual or business does not respond to the education, and continues to ignore the mandate, a referral may be made to the District Attorney. CCDPH does not wish to rise it to the level of litigation, which is why they are asking that you willingly comply with the mandate.

COVID-19 spreads very easily and quickly. Even if you and your employees are doing everything right, your business may see cases of COVID-19. We want to help you plan and make sure you know what to do if that happens. Visit the Chippewa County Coronavirus Information Page for our Business Toolkit, which will help you through this time.

***"The Healthiest County to Live, Learn, Work, and Play"***



## Chippewa County Department of Public Health

711 N Bridge Street, Room 121, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729  
P: 715.726.7900 / 1.800.400.3678 / F: 715.726.7910  
[www.co.chippewa.wi.us/ccdph](http://www.co.chippewa.wi.us/ccdph)



### Frequently Asked Questions

#### **If an employee tests positive for COVID-19, do I need to shut down my business?**

No. In most cases, you do not need to shut down your business.

Employees who came into close contact up to 2 days before the employee tested positive, or first got sick, must quarantine for 14 days. Close contact means an employee was closer than 6 feet for 15 minutes or longer to the person who tested positive. Tell these employees they may have been exposed to COVID-19 and should quarantine. You need to be very careful to protect the privacy and confidentiality of the employee who tested positive.

#### **How long will an employee need to stay home if he or she tests positive for COVID-19?**

For most persons with COVID-19 illness, isolation and precautions can generally be discontinued 10 days after symptom onset and resolution of fever for at least 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing medications, and with improvement of other symptoms. A limited number of persons with severe illness may produce replication-competent virus beyond 10 days that may warrant extending duration of isolation and precautions for up to 20 days after symptom onset.

For persons who never develop symptoms, isolation and other precautions can be discontinued 10 days after their first positive COVID-19 test.

An employee who tests positive for COVID-19 must remain in isolation (i.e., limit contact with others and not work) until they are released by a public health nurse from their local Health Department.

#### **What should I do if an employee is exposed to someone with COVID-19?**

If an employee came into close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19, he or she should quarantine for 14 days and monitor for symptoms. He or she should not go to work while quarantined, even if the employee doesn't feel sick. It can take up to 14 days for someone to get sick with COVID-19 after he or she has been exposed to it. The employee should quarantine for 14 days after the last time he or she was in close contact with the person who tested positive. Even if the employee tests negative, he or she must still finish the 14-day quarantine.

#### **Will the health department call my business or agency if one of my employees tests positive?**

Staff from the health department may contact you to tell you what your business or agency should do. They will ask for a list of other employees who may have been in close contact with the employee who tested positive. For example, other employees who worked the same shifts as the employee who tested positive or who work in the same area or office space. This helps the health department find other people who may be at risk for COVID-19 quicker.

#### **Will it be made public if one of my employees tests positive for COVID-19?**

An employee's test result is considered private health information and is kept confidential by public health. Public health only shares the names of employees who test positive for COVID-19 with an employer if it is necessary to find others who may have been exposed to the virus. An employee's name or test result is not shared publicly or with the media.



## Chippewa County Department of Public Health

711 N Bridge Street, Room 121, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729  
P: 715.726.7900 / 1.800.400.3678 / F: 715.726.7910  
[www.co.chippewa.wi.us/ccdph](http://www.co.chippewa.wi.us/ccdph)



Only rarely does the health department need to issue a public statement about a potential exposure or outbreak of COVID-19. If this happens, the health department will work closely with you before issuing a public statement. A public exposure notification is typically issued when an employee or customer with a positive test was in your business for an extended period of time and Public Health cannot determine the names of other individuals that may have been exposed to the virus.

### **Should I require employees to have a negative test in order to return to work?**

No. Sometimes people will test positive after they are no longer infections. It is not necessary for employees to have a negative COVID-19 test after public health has told them they can end quarantine or isolation. Requiring a negative test will put unnecessary stress on the healthcare and public health response, and testing supplies may be limited.

### **Resources:**

- [CCDPH COVID-19 Business Subpage](#)
  - [Business Toolkit](#)
  - [Face Masks Required Sign](#)
  - [COVID-19 Investigations 101: A crash course on isolation, quarantine, and contact tracing \(slides\)](#)
- [WI Department of Health Services](#)
  - [Have You or Someone You Know Been Diagnosed with COVID-19?](#)
  - [Guidance for Businesses, Employers, and Workers](#)
  - [ASL, Language, and Print Resources](#)
- [Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation Reopening Guidelines](#)
- [CDC Tools for Businesses and Workplaces](#)
- [OSHA Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19](#)