



# TURTLE MOUNTAIN BAND OF CHIPPEWA CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE TEAM

TRIBAL MASTER HEALTH DEPARTMENT | TMCHIPPEWA.COM

## YOU ARE A HOUSEHOLD CONTACT TO A COVID-19 CASE, NOW WHAT?

This guidance is for people who are identified as a Household Contact to COVID-19. This is defined as an individual that lives in the same house as a COVID-19 positive individual.

Signs and symptoms of COVID-19 The most common symptoms of novel coronavirus are fever and cough, difficulty breathing, loss of taste/smell, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills, diarrhea, and nausea/vomiting. These symptoms can also be due to many other illnesses. If you develop a fever or any symptoms, it doesn't mean you have COVID-19, but you should immediately contact your health care provider for COVID-19 testing.

### Monitoring Period

Avoid congregate settings, public activities, and practice social distancing during your quarantine period.

This means you should remain out of public places where close contact with others may occur (e.g., shopping centers, movie theaters, stadiums), workplaces, schools and other classroom settings, and public conveyances (e.g., bus, subway, taxi, side share) for the duration of your quarantine period unless approved by the state or local health department.

Household contacts to a confirmed COVID-19 case will need to monitor themselves and quarantine during the duration of the case's infectious period AND for 14 days after the case is released from isolation. There are options for household contacts to reduce the number of days they will need to quarantine following an exposure to a COVID-positive individual.

- If you are tested and receive a negative result from a viral COVID-19 test (PCR or rapid antigen), you can reduce your quarantine time **after the case is released from isolation**. This test must occur on day 5 or later

from your last exposure date. You must continue to quarantine while awaiting test results.

Fully vaccinated individuals can be exempt from quarantine and COVID-19 testing if:

- The individual is **fully-vaccinated** for COVID-19 (i.e.  $\geq 2$  weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or  $\geq 2$  weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine) AND remains symptom-free following the exposure.

**After stopping quarantine, you should:**

- Watch for symptoms until 14 days after exposure.
- If you have symptoms, immediately self-isolate and contact your local public health authority or healthcare provider.

Wear a mask, stay at least 6 feet from others, wash your hands, avoid crowds, and take other steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

If you become sick and are tested for COVID-19 during this period and are found to be Positive, then your isolation period will start. You will be released from isolation after ten days have passed since your symptoms began AND you are fever free ( $<100.4^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications AND symptoms are improving. The TMBCI Contact Tracing Unit will work with you on continuing your monitoring as a confirmed case of COVID-19. Even if you do not develop symptoms, you should get tested because you are a household contact to a COVID-19 case. Ideally, this should occur 5-7 days after your last known exposure. If you are found to be Negative, you will still need to fulfill your recommended monitoring and quarantine period, as it can take up to 14 days to develop COVID-19. Any time a new household member gets sick with COVID-19 and you had close contact, you will need to restart your quarantine

Example Quarantine Period Calculations for Household Contacts:						
1	2	3 Case notified of positive result. 1 <sup>st</sup> day of quarantine for household contacts.	4	5	6	7
8 Case's last day of isolation @ 11:59 pm	9	10	11	12	13 Household contact is tested	14
15 If test result is negative, household contact is released from quarantine @11:59PM	16	17	18 Household contact who is not tested and remain symptom-free is released from quarantine @11:59PM	19	20	21
22 Household contact is released from quarantine @ 11:59PM	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

## Check your temperature and symptoms

It is very important for you to monitor your health daily so that you can be taken care of and treated quickly if you get sick. Based on what is known from other coronavirus infections, 14 days is the longest time between when you were last exposed to COVID-19 and when symptoms begin.

- Take your temperature (use as directed in the thermometer instructions) **2 times a day:** once in the morning and again in the evening (if you forget, take your temperature as soon as you remember)
- You should also check your temperature anytime you feel like you have a fever or feel feverish.
- Write down your temperature twice a day, every day along with any of the symptoms listed below.

If you have fever (100.4°F or higher), cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms such as loss of taste/smell, chills, sore throat, body aches, headache, diarrhea, or nausea/vomiting, you should be tested for COVID-19.

The CDC recommends that fully vaccinated individuals who remain symptom-free do not need to quarantine but should get tested for COVID-

19 3-5 days following an exposure and in accordance with the **TMBCI Mask Mandate – Resolution TMBC741-08-21**- everyone is required to wear a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result.

Check <https://tmchippewa.com/covid-19-news-resources/> for a schedule of free testing sites, times and dates.

## What should I do if I become ill during this monitoring period?

Unless it is an emergency, **DO NOT GO** to a clinic or hospital without first calling ahead. Calling first will help the clinic or hospital prepare to greet you and take care of you in the safest possible way. If you must go to the hospital before calling, notify staff immediately that you are being monitored for COVID-19.

If you become ill and test negative at any time during your monitoring period, you still need to complete your quarantine period.

You may remain in your usual home setting while monitoring yourself for COVID-19. If possible, avoid sharing a bathroom with other members of the household. Also be sure not to share drinks or utensils. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

