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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN BAY COUNTY EXPLAINS NEW COVID-19 QUARANTINE OPTIONS

PCR test results now available through mobile app



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Panama City, Fla.— Effective Monday, December 7, the Florida Department of Health in Bay County (DOH-Bay) is following the Department of Health's newly issued COVID-19 quarantine options for close contacts to COVID-19 cases. These options are adapted from the CDC's updates released last Wednesday. Close contact are those individuals who have been within six feet of an infected individual for a cumulative of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period, regardless of mask usage.

Quarantine is used to separate someone who might have been exposed to COVID-19 and may develop illness away from other people. Quarantine helps prevent spread of disease that can occur before a person knows they have the virus. The CDC continues to recommend a 14-day quarantine when possible. The new options reduce the burden of COVID-19 quarantines against a small possibility of spreading the virus.

Quarantine can now be 10 days without testing or seven days after receiving a negative Molecular (PCR) test result taken on or after day six from exposure. The close contact must not have any symptoms of COVID-19 to stop quarantine. Exclusions for the new options include persons who are close contacts related to long-term care facilities, acute care facilities, assisted living facilities, and nursing homes.

PCR results typically are available in three to five days from the test date. Appointments should be made in advance at most locations and to ensure you can be tested on day six or later from exposure. Some testing locations may require you to verbally request a PCR test.

After stopping quarantine, you should:

- Watch for symptoms until 14 days after exposure
- If you develop symptoms, immediately self-isolate and contact DOH-Bay or your 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

The Healthy Together App is available for download on the App Store or Google Play and provides secure COVID-19 Molecular (PCR) test results. Once test results are received by the Department, a text message will be sent from the number 78549 to the phone number provided during the testing process. Recipients of the text message will be able to download Healthy Together and enter their date of birth and the phone number they provided during testing for authentication purposes to ensure the confidentiality of their results. Results will then be available in the app. App users will be provided with resources for protecting themselves and their close contacts and can choose to receive important COVID-19 updates from the Department.

Students and staff of Bay District Schools, including charters, will soon be receiving specific guidance on the new quarantine options.

Testing

Bay County Testing by Walk On

Lynn Haven Sports Park, 2201 Recreation Drive

Panama City Sports Park, 50 Chip Seal Parkway (New location beginning Monday, November 23)

Hours: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Criteria: Testing is available to adults over 18 and children ages 5 and up who are accompanied by an adult.

Cost: Free

Test Type: Antigen (rapid in 20 minutes) and PCR. Appointment required.

To make an appointment, visit <https://www.baycountyfl.gov/587/COVID-19-INFORMATION>.

Florida Department of Health in Bay County Testing

DOH-Bay, 597 W 11th Street, Panama City

Criteria: All ages with symptoms or close contact to a confirmed COVID-19 case. Call (850) 872-4455 for screening Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Test Type: PCR (Results in 3-5 days). Appointment required.

For additional COVID-19 testing options and information, visit Bay.FloridaHealth.gov.

For more Information on COVID-19

For text alert updates from the Florida Department of Health in Bay County, text "bayhealth" to 888-777. For additional information specific to Bay County, visit <http://bay.floridahealth.gov/> or BayHealthCOVID19.com. Contact the Citizens Information Center Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at (850) 248-6090, or email ask@baycountyfl.gov.

In order to make the daily COVID-19 report easier to download and more accessible, the daily report separates case line data in a separate PDF. The case line data report is available [here](#). The state also provides a report detailing surveillance data for every Florida county, which is available [here](#). The antibody COVID-19 test results report will be provided once a week and contains county, race and lab information on antibody COVID-19 tests conducted in Florida. The report for antibody tests conducted by private health care providers is available [here](#) and the report for antibody tests conducted at state-supported COVID-19 testing sites is available [here](#).

More information on a case-by-case basis can also be found [here](#).

To find the most up-to-date information and guidance on COVID-19, please visit the Department of Health's dedicated [COVID-19 webpage](#). For information and advisories from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), please visit the [CDC COVID-19 website](#), this website is also available in Spanish and Creole. For more information about current travel advisories issued by the U.S. Department of State, please visit the [travel advisory website](#).

For any other questions related to COVID-19 in Florida, please contact the Department's dedicated COVID-19 Call Center by calling 1-866-779-6121. The Call Center is available 24 hours per day. Inquiries may also be emailed to COVID-19@flhealth.gov.

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About the Florida Department of Health

The Department, nationally accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board, works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community

efforts. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter at @HealthyFla. For more information about the Florida Department of Health, please visit www.FloridaHealth.gov.