

What to do if you are diagnosed with COVID-19

Isolate at home:

- Don't leave home, except to get medical care. Call ahead before visiting a health care provider or emergency department.
- Most people with mild illness can recover at home. While there is no specific treatment for COVID-19, you should get plenty of rest, drink plenty of fluids, and take fever-reducing medication if needed.
- As much as possible, stay in a specific room in your home and use a separate bathroom. Stay at least six feet away from others in your home at all times. Don't share household items.
- Have someone else care for your pets. Although no animals have been reported to get sick with COVID-19, people with the virus should limit contact with animals until more information is known. If you do care for your pet, wash your hands before and after.
- Stay connected with others – use technology to communicate with friends and family.

Daily cleaning and washing:

- Clean and disinfect surfaces in your separate room and bathroom. Have someone else clean the other areas of your home.
- Thoroughly wash household items, like utensils, after using.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water aren't available.

When to get medical care immediately:

If you have difficulty breathing, chest pain, confusion, or changes in color on your lips, gums, face, around the eyes, or nails, seek medical care immediately. When you call for medical care, tell the provider or 911 that you have COVID-19 and are isolating at home.

People who have been in close contact with you while you were infectious should quarantine at home – even if they don't have symptoms:

- People that were in close contact with you during your infectious period, which starts the day before any symptoms began, and continues until you have [recovered](#), should quarantine at home. They can refer to the [“What to do if you are a close contact of someone who is diagnosed with COVID-19”](#) guide. Close contacts of your close contacts do not need to follow the guidelines (unless they have symptoms).
- Close contact means being within six feet for a long time. Close contact does not mean being more than six feet away in the same indoor environment for a long period of time, walking by, or briefly being in the same room.

Examples of close contacts	Examples of NOT close contacts
People living in the same home	Cashier at the grocery store
Intimate partners	Pharmacists who gave you medication
People who rode in the same car while you were infectious	The person in front of you in line at the store
Friends who had dinner together while you were infectious	Coworker who briefly walked by to ask a question

It's safe to stop home isolation when you've recovered. This is when **all three things** have happened:

1. It's been three full days of no fever without the use of fever-reducing medication, **and**
2. Other symptoms have improved, **and**
3. At least seven days have passed since your symptoms first appeared.

Difference between isolation and quarantine

	Self-isolation	Self-quarantine
For whom?	People with symptoms of COVID-19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For people with COVID-19 who aren't sick enough to be hospitalized, or • For people who are waiting for test results 	People with no symptoms of COVID-19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close contacts of people with COVID-19
For how long?	Until recovery, which happens when all three have happened: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It's been three full days of no fever without the use of fever-reducing medication, and 2. Other symptoms have improved, and 3. At least seven days have passed since your symptoms first appeared. 	For 14 days since the date of possible exposure. The day of the exposure is Day 0.
What does it mean?	Staying in a separate room in the house, using a separate bathroom, avoiding contact with others.	Staying home 24/7, monitoring for symptoms, and practicing social distancing. If possible, using a separate room and bathroom. If you become symptomatic, your close contacts should also self-quarantine.

More information is available on our website: www.healthvermont.gov/COVID-19