



## MAYOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER COVID 19 WORKPLACE EMPLOYEE SAFETY MEASURES AND PROTOCOLS

Whereas, the protection of the health and well-being of the City's workforce during the COVID-19 pandemic is a primary concern of the administration; and

Whereas, the recent highly contagious Omicron Variant has impacted many of our employees and their families; and

Whereas, additional proactive measures need to be followed by all employees to reduce the spread of the virus to employees and their families;

Whereas, the CDC has updated its guidance as to protective measures to be taken against this highly contagious Omicron Variant to mitigate the spread of the virus;

Whereas, the following is attributable to CDC Director, Dr. Rochelle Walensky:

*"The Omicron variant is spreading quickly and has the potential to impact all facets of our society. CDC's updated recommendations for isolation and quarantine balance what we know about the spread of the virus and the protection provided by vaccination and booster doses. These updates ensure people can safely continue their daily lives. Prevention is our best option: get vaccinated, get boosted, wear a mask in public indoor settings in areas of substantial and high community transmission, and take a test before you gather."*

Now, therefore, I Caroline Simmons, Mayor of the City of Stamford, by virtue of the authority vested in me pursuant to emergency powers as set forth in Connecticut General Statutes Section 28-8a and Section C3-10-10 of the Charter of the City of Stamford, I hereby issue the following Executive Order.

1. The Executive Order issued by Mayor David Martin dated July 31, 2021 "City Employee Safety When Working at the Government Center during the COVID-19 Pandemic" is replaced and superseded by this Executive Order.

The Omicron Variant is a highly contagious form of COVID-19. Here is a link to the CDC web site describing this variant: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/omicron-variant.html>. With the extreme rise in COVID-19 cases, and to reduce risk of exposure to our work force, department managers are to ensure that these Covid-19 protocols are in place in each of your departments.

3. Employees who have COVID like symptoms should not report to work, notify their supervisor and contact their medical provider for appropriate follow-up. Link to CDC description of COVID symptoms: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>
4. If you test positive for COVID-19 regardless of vaccination status:
  - a. Isolate at home for 5 days.
  - b. If you have no symptoms or your symptoms are resolving after 5 days including no fever, you can return to work.
  - c. Continue to wear a mask around others for 5 days.
  - d. Continue to follow the City's policy to wear a mask and social distance while at work.
5. If you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19:
  - a. If you have been (i) boosted, or (ii) completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna within the last 6 months, or (iii) completed the primary series of J&J within the last 2 months:
    - i. You may report to work.
    - ii. Wear a mask around others for 10 days.
    - iii. Test on day 5 if possible.
    - iv. Ongoing continue to follow the City's policy to wear a mask and social distance while at work.

If you develop symptoms do not report to work, get tested, and if positive, follow the guidance in item 4 above.

- b. If you (i) completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna over 6 months ago and are not boosted, or completed the primary series of J&J over 2 months ago and are not boosted, or (iii) are unvaccinated:
        - i. Do not report to work, except as per iii below.
        - ii. Stay at home for 5 days. After that continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.
        - iii. Employees directly responsible for the safety of the public, as identified by department managers, are not required to quarantine and may report to work. These employees are required to wear a mask at all times while at work and while around others while not at work for 10 days.
        - iv. Test on day 5 if possible.
        - v. Ongoing continue to follow the City's policy to wear a mask and social distance while at work.



If you develop symptoms do not report to work, get tested, and if positive, follow the guidance in item 4 above.

Link to CDC guidance on isolation/quarantine  
<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s1227-isolation-quarantine-guidance.html>

6. Employees in all City facilities shall properly wear a facemask at all times. A limited exception is when an employee is working alone in a private office and for certain medical conditions. Here are two links to the CDC guidance on the proper wearing of facemasks:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/effective-masks.html>

It is also a recommended strategy that wearing a double mask (i.e. surgical and cloth mask) provides further protections. The City has a supply of KN95 masks for general employees that may be used as an alternative to double masking.

**Note:** Make sure your mask fits snugly against your face. Pick a mask with layers to keep your respiratory droplets in and others' out. Use a mask fitter or brace over a disposable mask or a cloth mask to prevent air from leaking. Choose a mask with a nose wire.

7. Employee should at all times while in city facilities practice social distancing. Elevators in the Government Center are limited to a maximum capacity of four individuals. When elevators are at the maximum capacity of four individuals, employees should wait for the next available elevator or use the stairs to access upper floors.
8. Employees should routinely use hand sanitizer throughout the workday. Hand sanitizer is available upon entering the building, at the elevator banks on each floor and in each department.
9. Employees, after use, are responsible for sanitizing printers, scanners, phones, computer, monitors etc. Sanitizing wipes are available for employees for this purpose.
10. Employee should refrain from scheduling or meeting in gatherings of multiple employees. To the extent possible meetings should take place using Zoom, rather than in-person meetings.
11. Fully vaccinated employees are encouraged to be tested for COVID-19 as recommended by the CDC <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/vaccines/covid-testing-if-vaccinated.pdf>. A list of City of Stamford testing sites are available on the City of Stamford Department of Health's web site at

<https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/public-safety-health-welfare/department-of-health/covid-19-info/testing-information>

12. City employees who are not fully vaccinated are required to test weekly pursuant to the Mayor's Executive Order of August 6, 2021 <file:///H:/Human%20Resources%20Administration/COVID-19/COVID-19%20Policies/City%20of%20Stamford%20Executive%20Order%20on%20mandatory%20vaccines%20%2008-6-2021.pdf>
13. COVID 19-vaccines are effective and can reduce the risk of getting and spreading the virus that causes COVID-19. It is recommended that city employees get vaccinated for their protection against spreading the virus among co-workers and their families. City employees who are fully vaccinated should get the booster for better protection against the Omicron Variant. Here is a link to the CDC web site regarding the safety of receiving the vaccine and how it protects you from COVID-19: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html>

  
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Mayor Caroline Simmons

  
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Date

## Frequently Asked Questions: CDC Updates and Shortens Recommended Isolation and Quarantine Period for General Population

### Isolation

#### **Why does CDC not require a test at the end of isolation?**

The majority of SARS-CoV-2 transmission occurs early in the course of illness in the 1-2 days prior to onset of symptoms and the 2-3 days after. PCR and antigen tests are authorized for SARS-CoV-2 diagnosis and are best used early in the course of illness for purposes of diagnosis. Some people may remain positive by PCR test beyond the period of expected infectiousness. The importance of a positive antigen test late in the course of illness is unclear and does not necessarily mean a person can easily spread the virus.

#### **Why do those who end isolation after 5 days only require a face mask and not an N95?**

The majority of SARS-CoV-2 transmission occurs early in the course of illness in the 1-2 days prior to onset of symptoms and the 2-3 days after. Wearing a well-fitting mask following isolation will decrease the small risk of SARS-CoV-2 transmission to others. Respirators (e.g., N95s) are a useful option for personal protective equipment to protect people from exposures in specific settings.

#### **Why are isolation recommendations the same for those who are unvaccinated, vaccinated, and boosted?**

COVID-19 vaccination decreases the risk of severe disease, hospitalization, and death from infection. It also decreases the risk of SARS-CoV-2 infection, with a further decrease in risk for those who are boosted. Based on the available data, anyone who becomes infected with SARS-CoV-2, regardless of vaccination status, is maximally infectious for approximately the same amount of time. Early data of the Omicron variant confirm that breakthrough infections result in a similar duration of viral shedding and similar risk of transmission compared to infections in unvaccinated individuals, especially during periods of maximal infectiousness. Regardless of vaccination status, the majority of SARS-CoV-2 transmission occurs early in the course of illness in the 1-2 days prior to onset of symptoms and the 2-3 days after.

### Quarantine

#### **Why are the recommendations for quarantine different for those who are fully vaccinated and those who are boosted?**

Data consistently show that people who are boosted or are less than 6 months out from their primary mRNA series (or <2 months from the Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccine) have the highest level of protection from COVID-19. In the UK, vaccine effectiveness for mRNA vaccines against symptomatic disease with Omicron was 88% 2-9 weeks after vaccination and dropped to 34-37% at ≥15 weeks after a 2-dose vaccination; vaccine effectiveness again increased to 75% after a booster dose. Similarly, in South Africa two doses of an mRNA vaccine provided only 33% protection against COVID-19 infection during the Omicron wave. Given the increased protection against Omicron infection following a booster dose, those who have received a booster dose are at low risk of SARS-CoV-2 infection and are, therefore, at lower risk of transmission to others during the period following exposure.

#### **Following exposure (or during isolation and in the 5 days following), do I need to wear a mask in my home?**

CDC has always recommended that during periods of quarantine (and isolation) all members of the household should wear a well-fitted mask, even inside the home. If possible, one member of the household should care for the person who is in quarantine (or isolation) to limit potential exposures. This is especially important if there are people who are unvaccinated, vaccinated and not yet boosted, or immunocompromised inside the home. Following exposure (or during isolation and in the 5 days following), individuals should continue to wear a mask at home.