



## USSOUTHCOM Guidance for Close Contacts of COVID-19 Positive Individuals

26 OCTOBER 2021

This guidance applies to all personnel with duty at HQ, USSOUTHCOM.

- U.S. military personnel **MUST** follow this and Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidance.
- DoD Civilians, DoD Contractors, and all other non-U.S. military personnel are **ENCOURAGED** to follow these and all other CDC guidelines.
- **Asymptomatic, fully vaccinated close contacts of a COVID+ individual do not need to quarantine but must test 5-7 days after exposure. Asymptomatic, fully vaccinated close contacts can come to work while pending their test results while complying with mask-use and social distancing. You are fully vaccinated 14 days after receiving the second dose of a two-dose vaccine series, or 14 days after a single-dose vaccine.**

**When an individual is instructed to enter quarantine:**

- Stay home for the period of time instructed (except to get medical care).
  - o If you were in close contact with a COVID+ individual and are not fully vaccinated, **quarantine is 14 days** from date of when you were last exposed.
    - The CDC defines close contact as being within approximately 6 feet of a COVID+ individual, for 15 cumulative minutes or more (over a 24-hour period) starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to testing) until the time the positive individual is isolated.
  - o Personnel pending results from a COVID test due to COVID+ exposure may not return to work until cleared by their medical provider unless fully vaccinated and asymptomatic.
- All close contacts should undergo COVID testing. **A negative COVID-19 test does NOT shorten your quarantine period.** If unvaccinated, you should get tested immediately after exposure. If your test result is negative, get tested again 5-7 days after your last exposure or immediately if symptoms develop. If fully vaccinated, get tested immediately if you develop symptoms. Even if you don't have symptoms, you should get tested 5-7 days after your exposure and wear a mask indoors for 14 days after exposure.
  - o If you receive a positive test for COVID-19, follow your medical provider's guidance for self-isolation. See USSOUTHCOM guidance for COVID Positive Individuals on ending isolation.
- An ETP may be requested to return to work prior to 14 days for mission essential activities.
- Do **NOT** go to work or other locations outside your home. Do **NOT** run errands or attend events.
- Keep contact to persons in household at a bare minimum. If possible, stay in a separate bedroom and use a separate bathroom. Wear a mask over your nose and mouth at home if other persons live in household. Stay 6 feet away from members of your household.
  - o Avoid sharing household items e.g. bedding, eating utensils, dishes etc.
  - o If you have pets, remain separate from them just as you would with other household members.

Check your temperature twice a day. Call your provider for a temperature at/above 100.4° F.

- Monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 to include cough, shortness of breath, congestion, sneezing, loss of sense of taste or smell, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, headache or fatigue. Notify your health care provider if you develop symptoms.
- Report in with your supervisor daily (including weekends/nonduty days).
- Identify others to assist with daily life activities during quarantine (grocery shopping, picking up medication, caring for children, etc.). Contact your supervisor for assistance as needed.
- Routinely clean frequently touched surfaces e.g. doorknobs, light switches, countertops, phones, keyboards, toilets, sinks, etc. with soap and water, then use disinfectant. This is for the bedroom, the bathroom and common areas.
- Notify the COVID-19 org box [southcom.miami.sc-cc.mbx.covid19@mail.mil](mailto:southcom.miami.sc-cc.mbx.covid19@mail.mil) if you develop a fever or any symptoms during your quarantine period.

**Quarantine is NOT required IF:**

- **You are a fully vaccinated close contact meeting the following conditions:**
  - Close contact occurs at least 2 weeks after individual receives last dosage of their vaccination series (e.g. 2 weeks after a 2-dose series Moderna vaccine or 2 weeks after a 1-dose series Johnson and Johnson vaccine) AND
  - Individual remains asymptomatic since COVID+ exposure.
  - Testing recommended 5-7 days after exposure; mask wear indoors recommended for 14 days
- **You tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days prior to this COVID+ exposure AND recovered. Recently recovered individuals should not be tested for COVID-19 during this 90 day period.**

**If you DO NOT develop any symptoms during your 14-day quarantine, you may return to your duty section on the release date provided by your Contact Tracing specialist.**

- Please send an email to COVID-19 org box [southcom.miami.sc-cc.mbx.covid19@mail.mil](mailto:southcom.miami.sc-cc.mbx.covid19@mail.mil) stating you have remained symptom-free and will be returning to the office as directed.

**RESOURCES:**

SOUTHCOM Chaplains Office Line: (305) 437-1024

SOUTHCOM HQ COVID-19 Resource Page

<https://www.southcom.mil/coronavirus/>

Centers for Disease and Control Prevention Interim Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>

Centers for Disease and Control Prevention COVID-19 *If You Are Sick If You Are Sick or caring for someone*

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/index.html>

Centers for Disease and Control Prevention COVID-19 Daily Activities and Going Out

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/index.html>

Centers for Disease and Control Prevention Recommendations for U.S. Households with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cleaning-disinfection.html>

Centers for Disease and Control Prevention Treatments Your Healthcare Provider Might Recommend if You Are Sick

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/treatments-for-severe-illness.html>

Environmental Protection Agency List N: Disinfectant for Coronavirus (COVID-19)

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2-covid-19>