



## ILA-USMX JOINT SAFETY COMMITTEE

# OSH ALERT 2021-07 [02 August 2021]

## COVID-19: Isolation & Quarantine

With all the recent governmental guidance relating to the COVID-19 Delta variant getting into the print and broadcast media, and with the renewed emphasis on vaccination being accompanied by reports about comparatively rare “breakthrough” infections that can be contracted even by those individuals who have been fully vaccinated, it’s easy to get lost in all that “stuff” and become confused about what you need to know regarding the basics.

Those basics are:

- 1). In the event you become infected, there is a need for “**Isolation**”; and
- 2). In the event you come into “*close contact*”<sup>1</sup> with someone who has become infected, there is a need to “**Quarantine**.”

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) updated the relevant webpage at its website just two days ago in order to provide the public with current information in relation to the terms “**Isolation**” and “**Quarantine**.” We provide an active link to the updated webpage he

[https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html?CDC\\_AA\\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fif-you-are-sick%2Fisolation.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fif-you-are-sick%2Fisolation.html)

The updated webpage offers a great deal of information about “What to do?”, and also provides the answers to several important questions typically asked by workers and managers when wondering about things such as:

What takes place in both “**Isolation**” and “**Quarantine**” and how long does each last?

The ILA~USMX Joint Safety Committee recommends that you review the updated webpage and continue to refer to the CDC’s COVID-19 webpages from time to time to keep current with what appears to be a quickly changing COVID-19 environment.

**Got a question about this particular subject? Write to the JSC at: [blueoceana@optonline.net](mailto:blueoceana@optonline.net)**

<sup>1</sup> The term “*close contact*” means being within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.)

## Working Together For The Benefit Of All

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## ILA-USMX JOINT SAFETY COMMITTEE

# The Novel Coronavirus

## Workers and Employers Want to Know

**Q. Workers and employers have asked the ILA~USMX Joint Safety Committee (JSC):** *“Many waterfront workers and managers have chosen to get vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus. The majority of us are fine, but a few have gotten infected subsequent to vaccination. Why is that, and what do vaccinated personnel need to know going forward?”*  
**[2 August 2021]**

**A:** While the three FDA authorized vaccines have a very high effective rate (an average of over 90% effective), that still leaves a comparatively small number of the vaccinated population with potentially ineffective results. It stands to reason then, that there will be a small number of vaccinated people who don't receive full immunity to the virus. Those are pretty good odds... but not perfect.

And while complete immunity may not be realized, fully vaccinated persons who subsequently become infected tend to have milder symptoms of the associated illness,

Like unvaccinated persons, fully vaccinated persons who have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 should get tested 3-5 days after your exposure, even if you don't have symptoms. You should also wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days following exposure<sup>1</sup> or until your test result is negative. You should **isolate** for 10 days if your test result is positive.

In terms of more fully explaining what vaccinated people need to know going forward, the latest intelligence published by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) just last week is available at that agency's website.

We include a link to the relevant updated webpage here:

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

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<sup>1</sup> The CDC's Order of February 1, 2021 relating to "Transportation Hubs" continues to require the wearing of masks within indoor settings at those locations.

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