

Legislative Update SEPTEMBER 2022*

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NEW YORK STATE UPDATES COVID-19 QUARANTINE & ISOLATION GUIDANCE

On September 14, 2022, the New York State Department of Health updated its COVID-19 quarantine and isolation webpage to remove earlier COVID-19 guidance and tables dated May 31, 2022. The updated webpage states that New York is following the August 24, 2022 U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance regarding COVID-19 quarantine and isolation. The State directs the public to that CDC guidance and the CDC's isolation and exposure calculator located at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/isolation.html>.

The latest CDC guidance removed the requirement of precautionary quarantines for any person exposed to COVID-19 who remained asymptomatic, irrespective of vaccination status. New York's guidance previously imposed critical differences based on vaccination status. Persons who were fully up to date with a COVID-19 vaccination series and any boosters did not have to quarantine following a COVID exposure, while those not up to date with boosters would need to quarantine.

Under the current CDC guidance, persons exposed to others with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 are no longer required to quarantine. Instead, they are to wear a high-quality mask or respirator for 10 days around others and should be tested for the virus five or more days after the exposure, even if they do not develop symptoms. Regardless of vaccination status, individuals who become symptomatic or test positive for COVID-19 must isolate themselves for at least five days or 24 hours after the abatement of symptoms, whichever is later, and to wear a mask around others for 10 days.

The New York State Department of Health also updated its Affirmation of Isolation form, which states: "This form may be used for Isolation Release or for New York Paid Family Leave COVID-19 claims as if it was an individual Order for Isolation issued by the New York State Department of Health or relevant County's Commissioner of Health or designee." Similarly, the New York State Department of Health still maintains on its website an Affirmation of Quarantine form which states: "This form may be used for Quarantine Release, quarantine leave benefits, or for New York Paid Family Leave COVID-19 claims as if it was an individual Order for Quarantine issued by the New York State Department of Health or relevant County's Commissioner of Health or designee."

Sources: SHRM Online/Littler, CDC, and NYSDOH

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