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## **INFORMATION & FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT COVID-19**

### **1. What is COVID-19 & how is it effecting hospitals?**

- a. COVID-19 is a contagious respiratory illness caused by a new Coronavirus called SARS-CoV-2. People with COVID-19 sometimes have a cough, fever, feel like it's hard to breathe, or even lose their sense of taste or smell. Other symptoms include congestion or runny nose, diarrhea, headache, nausea or vomiting, muscle pain or fatigue, sore throat or chills. Symptoms range from mild to severe and may appear 2-14 days after exposure. People who have tested positive for COVID-19 do not need to quarantine or get tested again for up to 3 months as long as they do not develop symptoms again.
- b. Hospitals are nearing capacity due to the increase in positive COVID-19 cases. Emergency rooms are being forced to bypass patients in some cases due to the lack of bed availability in hospitals.

### **2. Who should quarantine and for how long?**

- a. If you or a member of your family has been in close contact (within 6 feet for of more than 15 minutes over a 24-hour period, even if you are wearing a mask to lower your risk of infection) with someone who has COVID-19, you should quarantine. People in quarantine should stay home, separate themselves from others and monitor their health. You should also quarantine if you provided care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19, had direct physical contact with the person (hugged or kissed them), shared eating or drinking utensils or if someone you know with COVID-19 sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on you. If you are symptomatic or waiting for a test result, you and other members of your household should quarantine.
- b. Quarantine can end after 10 days if the person has not developed any symptoms. A test is not required. Quarantine can end after seven days if the person tests negative

for COVID-19 on day five, six or seven of the quarantine and has not developed any symptoms.

### 3. Do I need to be retested to return to work?

- a. No, a negative test is not required. However, at least 10 days should have passed since the symptoms first appeared, and at least 24 hours since the last fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and COVID-19 symptoms have improved to end the isolation.

### 4. What is a safe way to celebrate the holidays?

- a. Postponing travel and staying home is the best way to protect yourself and others this year. Limit gatherings to people living in the household. If you are having guests to your home, be sure that people are wearing masks and staying 6 feet apart.

### 5. When is the vaccine going to be available?

Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines have been approved for an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the FDA. A limited supply of the approved vaccines are currently being administered to health care personnel that have direct patient contact and at long-term care facilities. The ACIP (Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices) has developed an allocation prioritization list dependent on individual risk factors. When vaccine is available (tentatively mid-January) the Lake County Health Department along with other partners will start vaccinating community members based on CDC/ACIP recommendations. Further information on vaccination locations and times will be posted on the Lake County Health Department's website and other multi-media sources when this information becomes available.

- a. Please visit <https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/vaccine/index.htm> for more information.
- b. The Lake County Health Department is seeking volunteers to assist with vaccinating and registering at vaccination sites. Please contact Sandy Smoljan at [smoljls@lakecountyin.org](mailto:smoljls@lakecountyin.org)

### 6. Where can I get tested?

- a. Please visit <https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/2524.htm> for more information.



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