Dear Staff and Families,

As you are probably aware, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recently made an announcement about how long a quarantine should last for individuals who have been in "close contact" with a COVID-19 positive individual **and** are not exhibiting symptoms. This led many to inquire about our response as an organization and whether or not we planned to change our safety practices. To offer more clarity about the recent CDC announcement, and to provide additional details about how this will affect your campus and/or workplace, we would like to offer the following information.

While the CDC announced the option of shorter quarantine periods for individuals found to be in close contact with a person who tests positive for COVID-19, they maintain that a 14-day quarantine period is the safest option. The CDC went on to say that changes to quarantine time frames should be established by local public health authorities and are subject to specific circumstances and available resources.

Under the new quarantine guidelines, individuals found to be in close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual can end their quarantine after 10 days, without testing, if no symptoms have occurred during the quarantine. Individuals can end their quarantine after 7 days if no symptoms have occurred and they test negative for COVID-19.
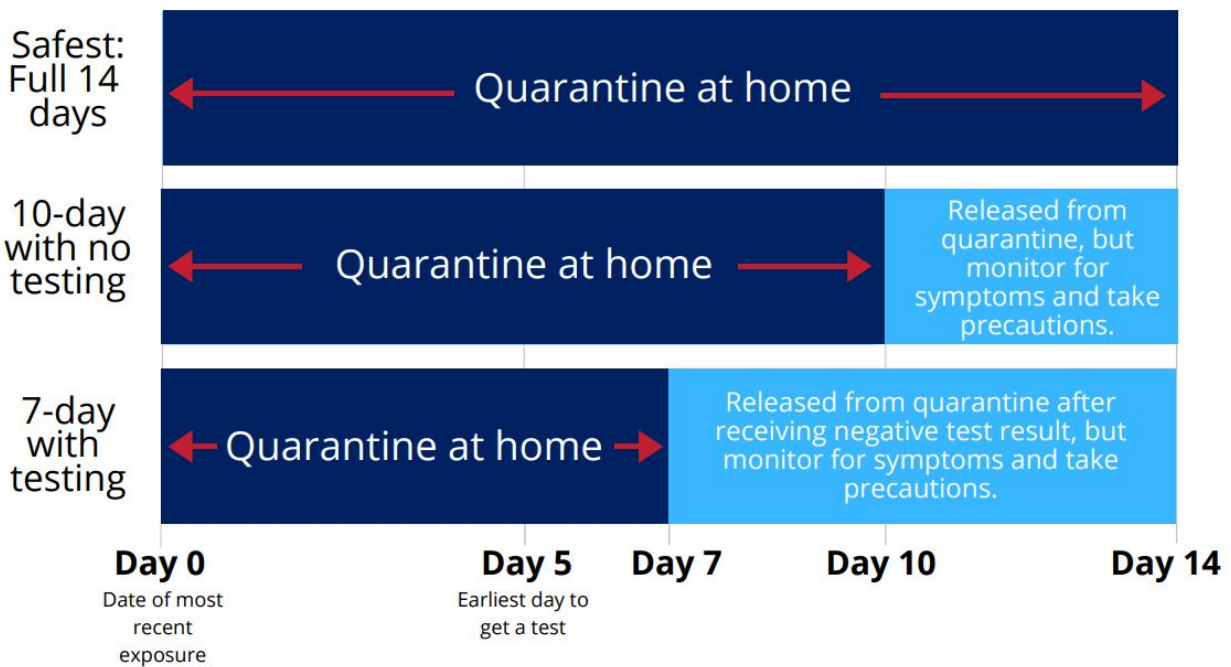
We understand that each individual's situation is different and a major consideration for one family or educator, may not be a priority to someone else. For that reason, we will leave the decision to quarantine for 7, 10, or 14 days to the discretion of each adult or family of a student.

- **Requirements to return after 7 days**: Individuals must submit negative test results to appropriate health services and/or HR staff. Note that the test sample must have been collected at least five days after exposure. Send-off (PCR) tests are preferred, but rapid PCR or antigen tests are acceptable. Returning individuals should regularly monitor themselves for symptoms to ensure they remain symptom-free and take appropriate precautions (e.g., more consistent mask usage) for the duration of the 14-day incubation period.

- **Requirements to return after 10 days**: Individuals can return without taking a COVID-19 test as long as they have not experienced symptoms at any time during the quarantine period. They must alert the appropriate HR staff and/or campus health services staff before returning. Returning individuals should regularly monitor themselves for symptoms to ensure they remain symptom-free and take appropriate precautions (e.g., more consistent mask usage) for the duration of the 14-day incubation period.

- **Requirements to return after 14 days:** Follow the CDC's recommendation for the safest quarantine period with no additional monitoring or precautions upon return.

Please keep in mind this is for individuals who are **not exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19**. Individuals who test positive or have symptoms of COVID-19 will follow the same quarantine guidelines as before. As always, thank you for your continued partnership as we update our COVID-19 practices.

Sincerely,

Chuck Cook
Chief Executive Officer
ResponsiveEd