Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19): Guidance for Fully Vaccinated People

This document provides guidance for fully vaccinated people about what activities they can safely resume. **This guidance applies to the general public and non-healthcare facility settings. Separate guidance will be provided for healthcare settings.**

COVID-19 vaccines have proven to be very effective at protecting vaccinated people against symptomatic and severe COVID-19. There is growing evidence that being vaccinated makes people less likely to have asymptomatic infection and spread the virus to others.

Evidence regarding the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines in real world settings, including vaccine effectiveness against SARS-CoV-2 variants currently circulating in the US and the region, create an opportunity for reducing public health mitigation measures for fully vaccinated persons. Science has now made it clear that indoor and outdoor activities, whether large or small, pose minimal risk to fully vaccinated people. Because of this, **fully vaccinated people do not need to wear masks or social distance any longer in any setting, indoors or outdoors, except in certain circumstances.**

An individual can be considered fully vaccinated **14 days after completion** of a COVID-19 vaccination series (after the second dose of a 2-dose series, or after one dose of a single-dose vaccine).

- If you're not vaccinated, find out more about COVID-19 vaccines at coronavirus.dc.gov/vaccine
- If you are **immunocompromised** (e.g., taking medications that suppress your immune system, history of organ transplant, autoimmune disorders, cancer), you may not be fully protected even if you are fully vaccinated. You may need to continue taking all the same precautions as unvaccinated people. Discuss your situation with your health care provider and follow their advice.
- This guidance applies to COVID-19 vaccines currently authorized for emergency use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the World Health Organization.

Activities for Fully Vaccinated People

- Fully vaccinated people are protected, and can resume activities safely without face masks and social distancing.
    - If in an area with low vaccination rates and high COVID-19 rates, you may choose to wear a face masks to further reduce your risk.
- No one (including fully vaccinated people) should participate in activities with other people or leave their homes (except for medical care) if they are sick.
- Practicing good hand hygiene (with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer) before and after visits and other activities is still recommended.
- Fully vaccinated people must still wear a mask:
    - When on public transportation traveling into, within, or out of the United States (on an airplane, train, bus, taxi, ride-share vehicle, or at a transportation hub such as an airport or train station)
    - At homeless shelters
    - At correctional facilities
    - In schools (pre-Kindergarten - 12th grade and adult education) and childcare facilities
    - In healthcare facilities
- Fully vaccinated people do not need to test or quarantine after domestic travel, but still need to be tested 3 days after returning from an international destination. See the *Travel* guidance at coronavirus.dc.gov/healthguidance.
- Fully vaccinated people should also follow COVID-19 policies of their employers, businesses, and other public settings.
    - If a business posts a sign indicating that masks are required, then you must wear a mask to go in.

Steps for those who are Sick, Test Positive, or are Exposed

- Fully vaccinated people who experience any symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 should isolate, see their healthcare provider, get tested if indicated.
  - Symptoms of COVID-19 may include: fever (subjective or 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit), chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, or otherwise feeling unwell.
- Fully vaccinated people should isolate for 10 days after they test positive. For details see *Guidance for Persons who Test Positive* at coronavirus.dc.gov/healthguidance.
- Fully vaccinated people who are close contacts of someone with COVID-19 generally do not need to quarantine, be restricted from work, or be tested if they have a close contact exposure to someone with COVID-19. They should monitor themselves for symptoms for 14 days from their exposure, and isolate if they develop symptoms. For more details see *Guidance for Quarantine after COVID-19 Exposure* at coronavirus.dc.gov/healthguidance.
- Fully vaccinated people who do not have symptoms are not recommended to participate in routine screening testing.

Testing, Exposure, and Quarantine in Special Settings

- Fully vaccinated people in the following higher-risk settings **do not need to quarantine but still should have COVID-19 testing if exposed to COVID-19** (provided they remain asymptomatic):
  - Residents and staff of non-healthcare congregate settings (e.g., correctional facilities, homeless shelters)
  - Employees of high-density workplaces (e.g. food and beverage processing plants)
  - Dormitory residents at educational facilities
- Fully vaccinated people with no symptoms and no exposure to COVID-19 in these settings **should be exempted from routine screening testing, if feasible**
- All vaccinated people who are exposed to COVID-19 should still monitor themselves for 14 days for the development of symptoms. For more information, please see *Guidance for Quarantine after COVID-19 Exposure* at coronavirus.dc.gov/healthguidance.

More Information

There are still questions to be answered including:

- how long vaccine protection lasts
- how long protection from re-infection lasts after a person has COVID-19
- how well the vaccines protect against the variant strains of the virus that causes COVID-19
- how well the vaccines protect people with weakened immune systems
- whether the vaccines are safe and effective in children younger than age 12

- For answers to common questions about the COVID-19 vaccines, see COVID-19 Vaccine Information at coronavirus.dc.gov/vaccine-information.

The guidelines above will continue to be updated as the outbreak evolves. Please visit coronavirus.dc.gov regularly for the most current information.