

# Next Steps: while you wait for your COVID-19 test results



**If you've been exposed to COVID-19:** Quarantine at home if you are not up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations, wear a well-fitting mask, and monitor for symptoms while you wait for your test results. If you are up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations, you do not need to quarantine but should still monitor for symptoms and wear a well-fitting mask around others in your home and in public.

**If you have symptoms of COVID-19:** Separate yourself from others in your home, monitor for new or worsening symptoms, and wear a well-fitting mask while you wait for your test results regardless of your vaccination status.



## Protect yourself and others

- Stay away from others while you wait for your test results.
- Wear a well-fitting mask when you are around others in your home and in public while you wait for your test results.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use hand sanitizer with 60% alcohol if you don't have soap and water.
- Clean "high-touch" surfaces every day (such as tabletops, doorknobs, phones, and keyboards).
- Do not touch your eyes, nose and mouth if you haven't washed your hands.



## Self-monitor for symptoms

- Keep track of when you have any new symptoms.
- Check your temperature two times a day.
- If you are sick, keep a daily record of fever, cough, and any other symptoms.
- If your symptoms get worse, contact your health care provider. If you are having a medical emergency, call 911.

**Were you tested at  
a clinic or hospital?**



Your health care provider will contact you when your results are available. Do not contact your local health department for test results.

For more information, visit: [www.dhs.wi.gov/covid-19/symptoms.htm](https://www.dhs.wi.gov/covid-19/symptoms.htm).

# What to do with your COVID-19 test result

## Positive test result? Isolate at home and separate yourself from others.

- **Do not leave your home.** Do not go to work or school. Do not travel or use public transportation.
- **Notify your close contacts you have COVID-19.** Close contacts who are not up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations should quarantine, including household members.
- **Watch for symptoms.** Call 911 immediately if you need emergency medical care and tell them that you have COVID-19.
- **Wear a well-fitting mask when around others.**
- **Postpone non-urgent medical appointments.**

## When is isolation over?



AND



AND



You have been **fever-free for at least 24 hours** without using medicine that reduces fevers

Your other **symptoms have improved** for at least 24 hours

**At least 5 days have passed** since you first had symptoms or tested positive (if you don't have symptoms)

**Wear a well-fitting mask when around others for an additional 5 days after your isolation period. If your symptoms don't improve after 5 days, wait to end your isolation period until they improve.**

## Negative test result? You likely do not have COVID-19 at this time.

### Are you a close contact of someone with COVID-19?

If you are **not up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations**, quarantine at home for at least 5 days and wear a well-fitting mask for an additional 5 days. Get tested at least 5 days after your last close contact. If you test negative, you can end quarantine but should continue to wear a well-fitting mask for an additional 5 days. If you test positive, immediately isolate.

If **are up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations (including booster and additional doses)**, you do not have to quarantine. However, you should still get tested at least 5 days after last close contact and wear a well-fitting mask for 10 days.

#### Want to learn more?

- Information for close contacts: [www.dhs.wi.gov/covid-19/close-contacts.htm](http://www.dhs.wi.gov/covid-19/close-contacts.htm)
- Information for those with COVID-19: [www.dhs.wi.gov/covid-19/diagnosed.htm](http://www.dhs.wi.gov/covid-19/diagnosed.htm)

