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Yolo County Rescinds COVID-19 Quarantine Order for Close Contacts

(Woodland, CA) – The Yolo County Public Health Officer has rescinded the Mass Quarantine Order (PDF). Effective immediately, persons who have been in close contact with someone infected with COVID-19 and have no symptoms are no longer required to quarantine after their exposure, regardless of their vaccination status, unless they live or work in a high-risk setting. The change in local requirements comes one day after the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) ended its quarantine recommendation for the general public. Exposed persons should still get tested for COVID-19 3-5 days after an exposure and wear a mask around others for 10 days, but can continue to work, go to school, and participate in normal activities as long as they have no symptoms.

Quarantine restricts the movement of individuals who came in close contact with someone who tested positive. The Mass Isolation Order (PDF) remains in effect for persons who have tested positive.

"I am rescinding the local Quarantine Order in order to reduce confusion created by having different guidance at the local and State levels," said Public Health Officer Dr. Aimee Sisson. "The change recognizes that COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, with transmission levels decreasing and safe, effective vaccines available."

As the incubation period of circulating variants of the SARS-CoV-2 virus has grown shorter (now averaging 2-3 days), quarantine has become less useful, with many exposed persons receiving notification of an exposure after their incubation period ended.

CDPH quarantine instructions continue to recommend quarantine for employee and resident close contacts in certain high-risk settings where transmission risk is high and the populations served are at increased risk of severe COVID-19 disease. These settings include homeless and emergency shelters, healthcare settings, correctional facilities, and long-term care facilities.

For more information on Yolo County's response to the pandemic, visit www.yolocounty.org/covid.

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