

**Health Alert Network** Missoula City-County  
Health Department

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DATE: August 3,

**Level of Distribution: Distribute, please forward to interested providers**

### **Information**

**SUBJECT: Release of individuals from Isolation/Quarantine.**

**INFORMATION: For health care providers** Based on state law, individuals may be released from Isolation/Quarantine **ONLY** by the Missoula City- County Health Officer or her designee.

**Isolation of COVID-19 Cases** Isolation is the separation of an individual with a disease (also known as a “case”) from others during the infectious period of the disease. With COVID-19 illness, isolation will last **at least 10 days after symptom onset, and fever must have resolved for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications, and other symptoms must have improved.**

**Quarantine of COVID-19 Close Contacts** Quarantine is the separation of an individual exposed to a disease but not diagnosed with it (otherwise known as a “close contact”) during the full incubation period for that disease. A close contact of a COVID- 19 case must be quarantined for 14 days after their last contact with that case. **Even if the close contact tests negative for COVID-19 or feels healthy, they must remain at home for the full 14-day quarantine period.** Symptoms, which may signal contagion, can appear up to 14 days after exposure and warrant re-testing.

**Testing** Please continue testing symptomatic individuals regardless of symptom severity. Many COVID-19 cases may experience mild symptoms yet be contagious. Also please test individuals reporting that they are a close contact to a case, even though they may be asymptomatic. Testing of asymptomatic close contacts should occur no sooner than 3 days after exposure. A close contact, as determined by the case investigation through the Health Department, is defined as exposure within 6 feet for an accumulation of 15 minutes or longer, regardless of the use of non-medical masks or face coverings.

Please contact us for any needed clarification.