



CITY OF ATLANTIC BEACH

UPDATED COVID-19 PROTOCOL/REQUIREMENTS FOR EMPLOYEES

December 28, 2021

The City of Atlantic Beach strives to keep the workplace, our residents, and our customers healthy by preventing employees from getting COVID-19. As such, we strongly encourage all employees to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

We have seen a recent spike in the number of COVID infections locally, in Florida, and across the nation. The Omicron variant has emerged as the most dominant strain in the U.S, accounting for almost three quarters (73 percent) of new cases last week. While Omicron is believed to be more contagious, early signs suggest that the variant is not more severe than other strains and most cases appear to be mild among those fully vaccinated.

The City of Atlantic Beach is following the latest guidelines from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on quarantine and isolation periods and protocol requirements for its employees. While we are not implementing a mask mandate at this time, employees are free to wear face coverings to protect themselves and others.

A period of **quarantine** is for those who may have been exposed to the virus and may or may not have been infected. A period of **isolation** is for those who test positive for the virus, even if they do not have symptoms.

The CDC says unless fully vaccinated and boosted, individuals **must quarantine** if they have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19. Close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of someone for 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.

There is no requirement for those who are fully vaccinated and boosted to quarantine after contact with a COVID-infected person, unless they have

symptoms, but they must properly wear a mask for 10 days. The City may require proof of vaccination to be exempted from the quarantine requirements.

If a person is vaccinated and has not gotten a booster, or if they are partially vaccinated or not vaccinated at all, they must stay away from the COAB workplace for 5 days after their last contact with a person who has COVID-19 and then properly wear a mask for an additional 5 days.

The current CDC guidelines advise anyone who tests positive for COVID to **isolate** for 5 days and then return to normal activities if a person is not showing any symptoms after that period. Day 0 is considered to be the first day of symptoms, while day 1 is the first full day after the symptoms develop.

For those who test positive but never develop symptoms, day 0 is the day of the positive test while day 1 is the first full day after the positive test.

If you develop symptoms after testing positive, your 5-day isolation period must start over.

The City is requiring employees who test positive to properly wear a mask for 5 days after they return to work.

The CDC is routinely evaluating and updating its guidance, so the City will continue to monitor local conditions as well as the guidelines from the CDC and will update these employee requirements as appropriate.