

AlabamaAGC Covid Update as of July 27 2021

As the number of calls from members inquiring what to do in today's COVID-19 environment are increasing on a daily basis, below is the latest guidance. As the CDC continues to revise its guidance, We encourage up to check the latest info on the CDC website (www.cdc.gov).

A brief summary of the current CDC recommendations:

At this time, the CDC **does not require but recommends** masks **for fully vaccinated individuals**. Also at this time, the CDC **does not require but recommends** testing and **masks for fully vaccinated individuals who have been exposed to COVID-19**.

For unvaccinated individuals, the CDC guidance remains unchanged at this time in regard to protection and exposure. CDC recommends that unvaccinated individuals should wear a mask in indoor public places with a social distance of 6 feet or greater and frequent hand sanitization. If exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, unvaccinated individual should quarantine for 14 days after exposure.

As you may have seen earlier today, it is anticipated that the CDC will issue further guidance in next 24 hours recommending face coverings for locations where the medical system is strained. We have been told that such guidance may be issued for certain states but not AL at this time. Should there be such guidance issued for AL, we will let you know.

As of today (7/27), the latest CDC recommendations are as follows for vaccinated individuals:

Fully vaccinated people can:

- Participate in many of the activities that they did before the pandemic; for some of these activities, they may choose to wear a mask.
- Resume domestic travel and refrain from testing before or after travel and from self-quarantine after travel
- Refrain from testing before leaving the United States for international travel (unless required by the destination) and refrain from self-quarantine after arriving back in the United States
- Refrain from testing following a known exposure, if asymptomatic, with some exceptions for specific settings
- Refrain from quarantine following a known exposure if asymptomatic
- Refrain from routine screening testing if feasible

Infections happen in only a small proportion of people who are fully vaccinated, even with the Delta variant. However, preliminary evidence suggests that fully vaccinated people who do become infected with the Delta variant can spread the virus to others.

To reduce their risk of becoming infected with the Delta variant and potentially spreading it to others, CDC recommends that fully vaccinated people:

- Wear a mask in public indoor settings if they are in an area of [substantial or high transmission](#),

- Fully vaccinated people might choose to mask regardless of the level of transmission, particularly if they or someone in their household is immunocompromised or at [increased risk for severe disease](#), or if someone in their household is unvaccinated. People who are at increased risk for severe disease include older adults and those who have certain medical conditions, such as diabetes, overweight or obesity, and heart conditions.
- Get tested if experiencing [COVID-19 symptoms](#).
- Get tested 3-5 days following a known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 and wear a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days after exposure or until a negative test result.
- Isolate if they have tested positive for COVID-19 in the prior 10 days or are experiencing [COVID-19 symptoms](#).
- Follow any applicable federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations.

People who are immunocompromised should be counseled about the potential for reduced immune responses to COVID-19 vaccines and to follow [current](#) prevention measures (including wearing [a mask](#), [staying 6 feet apart from others](#) they don't live with, and avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated indoor spaces) regardless of their vaccination status to protect themselves against COVID-19 until advised otherwise by their healthcare provider.

Fully vaccinated people with COVID-19 symptoms

Although the risk that fully vaccinated people could become infected with COVID-19 is low, any fully vaccinated person who experiences [symptoms consistent with COVID-19](#) should [isolate themselves from others](#), be clinically evaluated for COVID-19, and tested for SARS-CoV-2 if indicated. The symptomatic fully vaccinated person should inform their healthcare provider of their vaccination status at the time of presentation to care.

Fully vaccinated people with no COVID-like symptoms following an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19

Most fully vaccinated people with no COVID-like symptoms do not need to [quarantine](#), be restricted from work, or be tested following an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19, as their risk of infection is low. However, they should still monitor for [symptoms of COVID-19](#) for 14 days following an exposure.