



Blount County Government COVID-19 Guidelines and Procedures Updated August 30, 2021

POSITIVE COVID-19

Quarantine for 10 days after positive test/symptom onset. Must be symptom free for at least 24 hours before returning to work.

EXPOSURE to COVID-19

The Tennessee Dept of Health (TDH) recommends individuals quarantine through 14 days *after* exposure (resuming normal activities on Day 15). *For more information on exposures to COVID-19, the [TDH Close Contact Guidance](#) provides valuable information.*

There are two alternative (shortened) quarantine release options proposed by the CDC:

- **10 Day Quarantine:** If the individual does *not develop symptoms* consistent with COVID-19 or have an additional exposure, he/she may resume normal activities after Day 10.
- **7 Day Quarantine:** If the individual does not have symptoms and tests negative by PCR or antigen test on or after Day 5, he/she may resume normal activities after Day 7.

Monitor Symptoms through day 14

Wear a mask for a minimum of 14 days after exposure

TWO EXCEPTIONS

- Vaccinated persons are **NOT** required to quarantine if they are fully vaccinated and remain symptom free.
 - Fully Vaccinated is defined as:
 - ≥2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, **or**
 - ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of one dose in a single dose vaccine
- Previous COVID-19 cases who have had close contact with someone with COVID-19 and meet the following criteria **DO NOT** need to quarantine:
 - Had COVID-19 illness within the previous 3 months; and
 - Have recovered; and
 - Remains without COVID-19 symptoms.

NOTE: CDC guidance suggests that vaccinated individuals, who fall in this category, should get tested 3 to 5 days after exposure even if no symptoms are present. Individuals should also wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days following exposure or until the individual has a negative test result.

[TDH Quarantine and Isolation Calculator](#)

[TDH What to expect after being tested for COVID-19](#)

[TDH Close Contact Guidance](#)

[TDH Guidance for individuals diagnosed with COVID-19](#)

[TDH Isolation-Quarantine Release Guidance](#)

[CDC Guidance for Fully Vaccinated Individuals](#)

COVID-19 Leave Policy - Effective April 1, 2021

Ability to work remotely?

If approved by the elected official, an employee may work remotely during his/her quarantine period. This decision will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and may be revoked at any time which would require the use of accrued leave or unpaid time off.

No ability to work remotely?

No grants of additional leave will be provided for absences related to COVID-19. Employees may utilize accrued sick time (or other accrued, unused leave time) for absences resulting from confirmed cases of COVID-19 and for quarantine periods after exposure.

Current policy allows a negative sick time balance for COVID-19 related absences **IF** the Negative Sick Time Authorization form is completed and submitted to the Human Resources Department. The authorization form is attached.

Utilization of the Employee Sick Leave Bank is restricted to participants who have suffered a qualifying personal illness, injury or disability. For questions about sick bank usage for reasons relating to COVID-19, please contact the Human Resources Department.

Part-time employees do not accrue sick (or other leave) time; therefore, they are not compensated for absences due to illness, including COVID-19 or COVID-19 quarantine periods.

*We reserve the right to modify this document as the situation evolves.