



Lawrence · Douglas County
PUBLIC HEALTH
Advancing Health for All



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Douglas County adopts 10-day quarantine period for asymptomatic close contacts
14-day quarantine period still strongly recommended for anyone exposed to COVID-19

LAWRENCE – The Kansas Department of Health and Environment [on Wednesday](#) allowed counties to make an individual decision on adopting a shortened quarantine period, given the [recent update in CDC guidance](#).

Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health conducts disease investigation of all positive COVID-19 cases in the county, including identifying any close contacts who need to quarantine, and LDCPH currently utilizes the KDHE for monitoring of all those close contacts. KDHE staff indicated to continue using this support on contact monitoring, counties would need to adopt the updated 10-day quarantine period. The change will take effect Monday, Dec. 7.

10-Day Quarantine (No Testing and No Symptoms)

- After exposure, you monitor yourself for symptoms daily or participate in Public Health monitoring for 10 days.
- If you have no symptoms during the 10 days, you can be released from quarantine without a test.

“With the 14-day incubation period of the virus, we believe individuals who have been potentially exposed to COVID-19 should quarantine themselves for 14 days but given the resources we use through KDHE right now the 10-day quarantine period is what the state can support,” said Dr. Thomas Marcellino, Douglas County’s Local Health Officer. “Anyone who is feeling symptomatic should continue to quarantine for 14 days and seek testing through the health department or their provider.”

Due to high-risk situations, residents in long-term care and assisted facilities as well as offender populations in the Kansas Department of Corrections prisons are not eligible for shortened quarantine periods.

The new shortened quarantine requirements do not preclude individual businesses, schools or other institutions from staying with a 14-day quarantine, if they are more comfortable with that.

Douglas County has not approved the KDHE option for a shortened seven-day quarantine if the person obtains a negative PCR test on or after five days.

As more scientific and medical data become available, this could be subject to change in the future.

Unified Command leaders ask Douglas County residents to continue to follow the basic public health guidance including mask wearing, practicing social distancing and handwashing and limiting gatherings to limit chances for transmission and exposure of the virus in the community, particularly to protect those most vulnerable.

More information is available at LDCHHealth.org/coronavirus and dougalscountyks.org/coronavirus.