You can still get COVID-19 if you are exposed to the virus before you are fully vaccinated. There is also a chance that fully vaccinated people can get COVID-19 (these are called breakthrough infections). Breakthrough infections can happen, but people who are fully vaccinated are less likely than unvaccinated people to get COVID-19, or to be hospitalized or die from COVID-19.

COVID-19 variants
Future COVID-19 variants (sometimes called strains) can be more transmissible than previous COVID-19 variants. So now more than ever, everyone who is eligible to get vaccinated should. Wearing masks when you are around other people or in large gatherings is also still important until more people choose to get vaccinated.
How do COVID-19 vaccinations affect quarantine and isolation guidelines?

You don’t have to quarantine if it has been 2 weeks since your final shot, even if you are exposed to someone who tests positive. Fully vaccinated people do not need to quarantine and can continue to go to work, school, and participate in events. However, there are certain circumstances when you may need to quarantine or get tested, even if you’re vaccinated or have had COVID-19 before.

What to do if you are exposed to COVID-19:

If you have never had a COVID-19 vaccine:

Quarantine at home and get tested for COVID-19.

If you are partially vaccinated. This means it has been less than 2 weeks since your final dose of a COVID-19 vaccine:

Quarantine at home and get tested for COVID-19.

If you are fully vaccinated. This means it has been at least 2 weeks since your final dose of a COVID-19 vaccine:

Get tested for COVID-19. You don’t have to quarantine at home but you should wear a mask around other people for 10 days after your exposure. Isolate at home and get tested again if you get symptoms of COVID-19 within the 2 weeks after your exposure.

If it’s been less than 180 days since you tested positive for COVID-19:

You don’t have to quarantine at home but you should wear a mask around other people for 10 days after your exposure. Isolate at home if you get symptoms of COVID-19 within the 2 weeks after your exposure. The CDC and Utah Department of Health recommends you not get tested again if it’s been less than 90 days (about 3 months) since you first tested positive for COVID-19. However, if it’s been between 90-180 days (3-6 months) since you tested positive, you should get tested again.

If it’s been more than 180 days since you tested positive for COVID-19:

Quarantine at home and get tested for COVID-19.

It’s likely recommendations for testing, isolation, quarantine, and testing will change as we learn more about COVID-19 vaccines.