



Arkansas Department of Health

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Governor Asa Hutchinson
Nathaniel Smith, MD, MPH, Secretary of Health

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ADH requires a person exposed to COVID-19 to complete a 14-day quarantine period, even though they may have a negative test result during the quarantine period.

Quarantine of persons known to be exposed to someone with COVID-19 is a key strategy to stopping the spread of the illness. A person who is a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 must self-quarantine (remain home) for 14 days after the date of their last exposure to the positive case. Arkansas Department of Health staff will work closely with a contact to provide them with guidance and monitor their health.

It is important to understand that a negative COVID-19 test for a person who is a contact does **not** change the requirement for them to complete the 14-day quarantine. The 14-day period allows for adequate time to monitor for the development of symptoms during the full incubation period of the virus. A negative test in an exposed person during this period may be a false negative, as the virus may have been present but not yet at detectable levels. Asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic persons have been shown to contribute to the transmission of COVID-19, so ending the 14-day quarantine early puts others at risk.

Therefore, a negative COVID-19 test during a person's 14-day quarantine does not provide an early or total release from quarantine. All persons must complete a full 14-day self-quarantine when they have been exposed to a known case. Please share widely with your staff, especially those who provide COVID-19 results to patients.

For more information about self-quarantine visit <https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/programs-services/topics/covid-19-guidance-for-self-home-quarantine>.

For questions, please contact the ADH Hotline for health care providers at 1-844-930-3023 or email ADH.COVID19.Providers@Arkansas.gov.

To sign up for the Health Alert Network (HAN) and receive urgent updates from ADH regarding health crises or emerging issues, click [here](#).