



COUNTY OF ERIE

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COVID-19 ISOLATION QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Who does this apply to?

Any person who resides in Erie County, who has tested positive for COVID-19

Am I under isolation?

Any resident of Erie County who has tested positive for COVID-19 is subject to isolation in accordance with the Standing Commissioner's Order.

What if I ignore the isolation order?

Ignoring the isolation order is a crime punishable under Section 12-b of the Public Health Law. Additionally, the Department of Health can seek to confine you in a medical facility for failing to comply.

Okay, so how can I get out of isolation?

You must remain in isolation until you meet the New York State Department of Health Advisory "Symptom-Based Strategy to Discontinue Home Isolation for Persons with COVID-19" guidance. Once you meet the criteria in the guidance, you can end your isolation.

What are the guidance criteria?

Here are the Criteria:

If you've experienced any of the following symptoms: Fever, Cough, Shortness of Breath/Difficulty Breathing, the guidance criteria are:

- It's been at least 10 days since you first started experiencing symptoms; AND
- You haven't had a fever in at least 3 days, without taking fever-reducing medication (such as Tylenol); AND
- Any shortness of breath/coughing/difficulty breathing has improved.

If you meet ALL THREE criteria, you can end your isolation.

If you haven't experienced any of those symptoms, the guidance criteria are:

- It's been at least 10 days since you had your first positive COVID-19 test; AND
- You haven't had any subsequent illness

If you meet BOTH of these criteria, you can end your isolation

So if I meet the guidance criteria I'm totally free?

NO! Meeting the guidance criteria only frees you from medical isolation. You're still subject to all other applicable State and Local laws and Executive Orders. So for example:

THINGS YOU CAN DO	THINGS YOU CAN'T DO
Go to the grocery store	Go to a party
Go for a walk outside	Play sports with a group of people
Go to work if you work for an essential business provide an essential service as defined by the Empire State Development Corporation	Go to work if you don't work for an essential business or essential service.

Are there any other special instructions I should be aware of?

If you're a healthcare worker, first responder, or other essential personnel returning to work you are required to wear a mask for 14 days after the onset of illness or after you tested positive for COVID-19 regardless of the presence of symptoms. Please check with your employer for any additional instructions.

But if I'm cleared, I can't get anybody else sick, right?

Wrong. While the guidance criteria are designed to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spread, it's still possible that you can infect other people.

What can I do to prevent that?

Be careful. Wash your hands thoroughly and regularly. Cover any coughs. Avoid close contact with anyone over 65, or anyone with a compromised immune system or underlying illness. Maintain proper social distancing. Stay home unless you need to go out.

I understand all that. Do I need anything from the Health Department?

No. Once you meet the guidance criteria, your isolation period is finished.