



Dear Employers:

Lee County Health Department is in the process of adopting a new, reduced quarantine option made available by the CDC and IDPH. We believe that reducing a person's quarantine period to 10 days, when possible, will serve to relieve some of the logistical and mental health burden on our community members and employers while presenting a minimal increased risk of transmission of COVID-19.

We will make every effort to quarantine people for the minimum amount of time (10 days), however, there are several factors that go into making this possible that are beyond our control. A few of these are:

- A person's ability to complete daily health assessments via email or text, and their willingness to work with contact tracers.
- The level of risk involved. For example, are they being continually exposed to COVID-19 by a positive family member or were they only exposed one time?
- The county's metrics such as positivity rate, ICU admissions, # of outbreaks, etc.

It is very important that employers do not give guidance to employees on how long quarantine should last. We are currently in a surge of cases locally and may not be speaking with close contacts as quickly as we'd like. Please do not return employees to work before they have spoken with us. The next several weeks are likely to be challenging due to holiday transmission. People in our community are continuing to become very sick and even die from COVID-19, and this remains an issue that needs to be taken seriously despite the burnout we are all feeling.

Thank you once again for the amazing effort you are all putting into protecting our most vulnerable residents. We remain proud of the community we serve.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Whisenant
Infectious Disease Coordinator
Lee County Health Department