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January 11, 2022

**Safety Protocols for the Second Regular Session of the 73rd General Assembly**

The following are the updated safety protocols for the Second Regular Session of the 73rd General Assembly. These protocols are adopted after consultations with non-partisan legislative staff, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), and the Governor's office. The purpose of these safety protocols is to promote a safe and healthy working environment while the General Assembly is convened for the 2022 session. In light of the recent spike in COVID-19 cases due to the Omicron variant, these protocols are necessary to protect the health of all those in the Capitol.

All who plan to participate in session in person at the Capitol Complex are strongly encouraged to follow these protocols. Members should consult with their caucus leadership, and legislative staff may consult with their direct supervisors, if they have questions or concerns.

**General Safety Protocols**

- Masks will be available to all who plan to attend the session in person. Masks should be worn at all times while in the Capitol or anywhere in the Capitol Complex. Legislative staff, the press, and the public are required to wear masks while in House and Senate space, including chamber floors, galleries, lobbies, and committee rooms and hallways. Members of the public, press, lobbyists, staff, and members can request a mask at the testing site adjacent to the south entrance to the Capitol. Legislators and staff can get a mask at the front desks of the House and Senate chambers.

- Anyone experiencing COVID-19 symptoms (including fever, chills, sore throat, cough, shortness of breath, headache, congestion, runny nose, muscle aches, loss of taste or smell, nausea, and fatigue) should not come to the Capitol Complex.
- Everyone in the building is asked to wash their hands frequently, especially before and after meetings, floor work, upon entering the building and leaving, etc. Hands should be washed for at least 20 seconds with soap and water. Hand sanitizer will be placed in the chambers, committee rooms, and in public areas.
- Everyone should practice social distancing while in the Capitol Complex, staying a minimum of 6 feet away from others at all times.
- While present in space controlled by the General Assembly pursuant to C.R.S. 2-2-321, members of the public are subject to all executive orders issued by Governor Polis and any public health orders issued by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment due to COVID-19.
- CDPHE recommends that anyone participating in the session in person turn on CO Exposure Notifications on their cell phone.<sup>1</sup>

### **Remote Participation**

- Lobbyists and the public may enter the Capitol during the session. However, to the greatest extent possible, we encourage engagement during the session to occur remotely. Additional opportunities to participate in committee hearings remotely through submitting written testimony will be provided. The options for providing remote testimony during the 2021 session will continue to be made available.
- Staff should consult with their supervisors to determine whether they are able to conduct their work remotely. Any staff who come into the building during the session, even briefly, should follow the testing regimen described below.
- Members are authorized to allow their aides to work remotely.

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<sup>1</sup> Per CDPHE, people can use the CO Exposure Notifications service to anonymously alert their close contacts, including people they do not know but with whom they were in close contact. If you have CO Exposure Notifications installed or enabled on your phone, you can upload your positive test directly using the self-report feature. To self-report, users have the option within the Exposure Notifications service to request a verification code for their positive tests. Once a user's phone is validated, the state sends an SMS with a verification code to submit their positive case within Exposure Notifications. The user can tap the included link to alert others of a potential exposure. Only other people with CO Exposure Notifications installed on their phone can receive an exposure notification, so not all of your close contacts will be notified this way. When possible, alert your close contacts about their exposure as soon as you are able, so they know to quarantine and get tested. You can find more information here: <https://www.addyourphone.com/>

## Testing

- Everyone who plans to attend the session in person should participate in a serial testing regimen throughout the session. CDPHE recommends that even those who have been vaccinated or who have already had COVID-19 should still undergo regular testing.
- For those in the lobby, public, and press who choose to attend session in person, rapid COVID testing is strongly encouraged prior to entering the building. Testing will be offered daily in the parking lot adjacent to the South entrance of the Capitol. Members, legislative staff, and aides will have access to self-administered rapid antigen testing kits that will enable them to test for COVID-19 twice each week at regular intervals immediately prior to entering the Capitol Complex. Members, legislative staff, and aides are also welcome to utilize the testing station at the South entrance.
- Self-administered rapid antigen tests will be available for pick-up to members, staff, and aides at the Capitol. Each test takes approximately 15 minutes.
- Individuals who receive a positive rapid antigen test result should immediately leave the Capitol, obtain a PCR test as soon as possible, and remain at home until the PCR test results are received.
- Positive PCR test results should be immediately reported to the appropriate local public health authority, which can be found here: <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/public-information/find-your-local-public-health-agency>
- Please refer to CDC guidance below regarding what to do in the event of a positive test result.

## Committee Rooms

- During committee hearings, members should maintain social distancing and wear their masks for the duration of the committee hearing.
- Members of the public and the lobby are strongly encouraged to participate remotely whenever possible, including through the electronic submission of written testimony or remote testimony.
- Members of the public and the lobby may submit written testimony on any bill from the time the bill is scheduled until the committee takes action on the bill.
- Remote testimony is available through the Colorado General Assembly website.
- Members of the public, lobbyists, and staff who participate in committee hearings in person must wear a mask for the duration of the committee hearing and maintain social distancing while in the audience.

- Individuals providing testimony in person must register to testify by filling out an electronic form, rather than a paper sheet. The form will be available one hour before the scheduled start time of the bill hearing.
- Chairs for members of the public will be spaced six feet apart.
- Overflow rooms will be provided to allow for continued public participation and social distancing once capacity limits are met in committee rooms.

### **House and Senate Chambers**

- Members are asked to wear their masks when in the chambers, including when seated at their desks.
- If removing a mask or not wearing it at certain points, members should always be considerate of their surroundings and honor the requests of others to maintain social distance or put their mask back on.
- All guests and staff in the chambers must wear masks.
- Guests will be permitted on the floor on a case by case basis with permission of leadership.
- The Senate lobby will be open to the public, subject to social distancing and masking requirements. Signs will be posted to give notice that social distancing and masking are required. Sergeants will monitor the lobby and will restrict capacity as necessary.
- The House lobby will remain closed through the end of January.
- Aides will be allowed on the House and Senate floors when doing work for their Representative or Senator but are requested to observe the House and Senate proceedings otherwise from the gallery or their offices.
- The galleries will be open with social distancing and masking requirements.

### **CDC Recommendations in the Event of Exposure**

- Please note, the below guidance is the latest available from the CDC, as of January 9, 2022. Please visit [CDC.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus) to find and adhere to the most current guidance.
- If you came into close contact with someone with COVID-19 and you are in one of the following groups, you do not need to quarantine.
  - You are ages 18 or older and have received all recommended vaccine doses, including boosters and additional primary shots for some immunocompromised people.
  - You had confirmed COVID-19 within the last 90 days (you tested positive using a viral test).

- You should wear a well-fitting mask around others for 10 days from the date of your last close contact with someone with COVID-19 (the date of last close contact is considered day 0).
- Get tested at least 5 days after you last had close contact with someone with COVID-19. If you test positive or develop COVID-19 symptoms, isolate yourself from other people.
- If you come into close contact with someone with COVID-19, you should quarantine if you are in one of the following groups:
  - You are ages 18 or older and completed the primary series of recommended vaccine, but have not received a recommended booster shot when eligible.
  - You received the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine (completing the primary series) over 2 months ago and have not received a recommended booster shot.
  - You are not vaccinated or have not completed a primary vaccine series.
- What to do for quarantine
  - Stay home and away from other people for at least 5 days (day 0 through day 5) after your last contact with a person who has COVID-19. The date of your exposure is considered day 0. Wear a well-fitting mask when around others at home, if possible.
  - For 10 days after your last close contact with someone with COVID-19, watch for fever (100.4°F or greater), cough, shortness of breath, or other COVID-19 symptoms.
  - If you develop symptoms, get tested immediately and isolate until you receive your test results. If you test positive, follow isolation recommendations.
  - If you do not develop symptoms, get tested at least 5 days after you last had close contact with someone with COVID-19.
    - If you test negative, you can leave your home, but continue to wear a well-fitting mask when around others at home and in public until 10 days after your last close contact with someone with COVID-19.
    - If you test positive, you should isolate for at least 5 days from the date of your positive test (if you do not have symptoms). If you do develop COVID-19 symptoms, isolate for at least 5 days from the date your symptoms began (the date the symptoms started is day 0). Follow recommendations in the isolation section below.
    - If you are unable to get a test 5 days after last close contact with someone with COVID-19, you can leave your home after day 5 if you have been without COVID-19 symptoms throughout the 5-day period. Wear a well-fitting mask for 10 days after your date of last close contact when around others at home and in public.
    - Avoid people who are immunocompromised or at high risk for severe disease until after at least 10 days.
  - If possible, stay away from people you live with, especially people who are at higher risk for getting very sick from COVID-19, as well as others outside your home throughout the full 10 days after your last close contact with someone with COVID-19.
  - If you are unable to quarantine, you should wear a well-fitting mask for 10 days when around others at home and in public.

- Avoid eating around others at work until after 10 days after your last close contact with someone with COVID-19.

### **Recommendations in the Event of Positive Case**

- People who are confirmed to have COVID-19 or are showing symptoms of COVID-19 need to isolate regardless of their vaccination status. This includes:
  - People who have a positive viral test for COVID-19, regardless of whether or not they have symptoms.
  - People with symptoms of COVID-19, including people who are awaiting test results or have not been tested. People with symptoms should isolate even if they do not know if they have been in close contact with someone with COVID-19.
- Inform your close contacts.
  - In general, close contact means you were within six feet of someone for 15 minutes or more in a 24-hour period.
  - If you have had close contact with any unvaccinated people in the two days before you took the test or two days before your symptoms started (whichever happened first), those people will need to quarantine immediately.
  - Close contacts who got their second dose of Pfizer or Moderna more than six months ago who have not received a third dose will also need to quarantine.
  - Close contacts who got the Johnson & Johnson vaccine more than two months ago who have not received a second dose will also need to quarantine.
  - If you have been in close contact with people who have been vaccinated with all recommended doses, those people do not need to quarantine, but they should get tested 5 days after your contact with them. They should also wear a mask in all indoor public spaces for the 10 days after exposure.
- Ending isolation for people who had COVID-19 and had symptoms
  - If you had COVID-19 and had symptoms, isolate for at least 5 days. To calculate your 5-day isolation period, day 0 is your first day of symptoms. Day 1 is the first full day after your symptoms developed. You can leave isolation after 5 full days.
  - You can end isolation after 5 full days if you are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and your other symptoms have improved (Loss of taste and smell may persist for weeks or months after recovery and need not delay the end of isolation).
  - You should continue to wear a well-fitting mask around others at home and in public for 5 additional days (day 6 through day 10) after the end of your 5-day isolation period. If you are unable to wear a mask when around others, you should continue to isolate for a full 10 days. Avoid people who are immunocompromised or at high risk for severe disease, and nursing homes and other high-risk settings, until after at least 10 days.
  - If you continue to have fever or your other symptoms have not improved after 5 days of isolation, you should wait to end your isolation until you are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and your other symptoms have improved. Continue to wear a well-fitting mask. Contact your healthcare provider if you have questions.

- If an individual has access to a test and wants to test, the best approach is to use an antigen test towards the end of the 5-day isolation period. Collect the test sample only if you are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and your other symptoms have improved (loss of taste and smell may persist for weeks or months after recovery and need not delay the end of isolation).
  - If your test result is positive, you should continue to isolate until day 10.
  - If your test result is negative, you can end isolation, but continue to wear a well-fitting mask around others at home and in public until day 10.
- Ending isolation for people who tested positive for COVID-19 but had no symptoms
  - If you test positive for COVID-19 and never develop symptoms, isolate for at least 5 days. Day 0 is the day of your positive viral test (based on the date you were tested) and day 1 is the first full day after the specimen was collected for your positive test. You can leave isolation after 5 full days as long as you continue to have no symptoms.
  - You should continue to wear a well-fitting mask around others at home and in public until day 10 (day 6 through day 10). If you are unable to wear a mask when around others, you should continue to isolate for 10 days. Avoid people who are immunocompromised or at high risk for severe disease, until after at least 10 days.
  - If you develop symptoms after testing positive, your 5-day isolation period should start over. Day 0 is your first day of symptoms. Follow the recommendations above for ending isolation for people who had COVID-19 and had symptoms.
  - Avoid eating around others at work until 10 days after the day of your positive test.
  - If an individual has access to a test and wants to test, the best approach is to use an antigen test towards the end of the 5-day isolation period.
    - If your test result is positive, you should continue to isolate until day 10.
    - If your test result is negative, you can end isolation, but continue to wear a well-fitting mask around others at home and in public until day 10.

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*Speaker Alec Garnett*

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Speaker Alec Garnett, Chair

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