What to do if you test positive for COVID-19

People with COVID-19 can spread the virus to others. **If you test positive for COVID-19, even if you are vaccinated or never have symptoms, isolate as soon as you receive your test result.** Isolation means staying home and away from other people – including the people who live with you – for at least 5 days.

If you have a positive COVID-19 test
Stay home and isolate for 5 days. You can leave your home after day 5 if your symptoms have improved AND you have had no fever for at least 24 hours without the use of medicine that reduces fevers.

This guidance does not apply to [health care workers](#).

You may get a call from the Health Department. If you miss the call, call us back at 802-863-7200.

If you still have symptoms after completing isolation, you might choose to take extra precautions such as [wearing a mask](#), which helps protect you and the people around you from getting or spreading COVID-19.

If you are over 65 or have a high-risk medical condition and have mild to moderate symptoms, reach out to your health care provider to ask about COVID-19 therapeutics — as soon you get your positive test result. These treatments can reduce the chance of being hospitalized.

If you need to see a health care provider but don't have one, call 2-1-1 to be connected to care, or contact the nearest [federally qualified health center](#) or one of [Vermont's free & referral clinics](#).

Report your self-test results to the Health Department

You can report self-test results by choosing the option to automatically provide your results to your local health department or by filling out the [Vermont COVID-19 Self-Test Result Reporting Form](#).

Notify your close contacts:

If you test positive for COVID-19, it's important let people you spent time with recently know they could have come into contact with the virus. That way, they can look out for symptoms and get tested if needed, to help prevent further spread.

Think about who you spent time with starting two days before your symptoms began or if you had no symptoms, the day you were tested. It's especially important to reach out to anyone who may

be at higher risk for COVID-19. You can share this link for additional guidance: healthvermont.gov/closecontact.

Isolate at home:

Most people with mild illness can recover at home. For people with mild to moderate symptoms, there are treatment options for COVID-19.

- Stay home, except for urgent medical care or if you feel unsafe at home. Wear a mask if you need to leave home.
- Call ahead before visiting a health care provider or emergency department and tell them you are isolating because you have COVID-19.
- As much as possible, stay in a specific room in your home and use a separate bathroom.
- Stay at least 6 feet (or 2 meters) away from others in your home at all times.
- Wear a mask if you're in any room with other people or pets, unless you have trouble breathing.
- Don't share household items.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces, wash household items and wash hands often.
- Monitor your blood oxygen levels. People diagnosed with COVID-19 may have below-normal levels of oxygen in their blood before they feel short of breath. Finding low oxygen levels early can help you know to seek medical care sooner. This could make the disease less severe.
- If you are caring for someone who tested positive, find out how to care for someone sick at home (CDC).

When to get medical care immediately:

Get medical care immediately if you have trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion, inability to wake or stay awake, or changes in color on your lips, gums, face, around the eyes, or nails. Tell your health care provider or 9-1-1 that you have COVID-19 and are isolating at home.

Requesting a pulse oximeter

A pulse oximeter is a small device that clips onto your fingertip and measures your pulse and oxygen levels. It can help you know how sick you are. You can request one if you or someone you care for over the age of 2 tests positive for COVID-19. Be prepared to give your name, date of birth, physical address, contact information, what kind of test you took (PCR/LAMP or antigen), and the date the positive test taken.

You can ask for a pulse oximeter by calling 802-863-7200 or visit the website: https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6704528/Vermont-Department-of-Health-Pulse-Oximeter-Request