



ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE

What is ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE?

Isolation and quarantine are practices that protect the public from disease by preventing exposure to infected individuals or those who are possibly infected.

Isolation separates those who are sick with a contagious disease from people who are not sick. They are separated from others until they are no longer considered contagious.

Hospitals isolate some patients so they do not infect others with their illness. People in isolation may be cared for in their homes, hospitals, or in designated facilities.

Quarantine separates and restricts the movement of well persons with no symptoms to see if they become sick if they may have been exposed to a contagious disease. They are separated from others as they could become sick and contagious. People may be asked to stay in their homes so they do not possibly spread the disease to others.

When is the decision made?

The decision to isolate or quarantine someone is made when it is clear that an individual or group of individuals poses a significant risk of transmitting a contagious disease or agent to others, potentially harming the public's health. Initially, a person is asked to voluntarily isolate or quarantine himself or herself. If necessary, federal, state, or local authorities can be asked to enforce isolation and quarantine requests.

Authority and procedures:

According to Title 20 and Title 16 of the Delaware Code, once a decision is made to isolate or quarantine an individual, the public health authority or public safety authority will request an order from a judge authorizing the isolation or quarantine of an individual or group of individuals. In the order, the public health authority or public safety authority will decide the length of isolation or quarantine based on the disease factors or Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations. The public health authority or public safety authority reserves the right to request amendment of a legal order to extend the length of isolation or quarantine if an individual becomes ill or disease factors change.

Emergency Medical Services and Preparedness Section
24/7 Emergency Contact Number: 1-888-295-5156
Contact Number: 302-223-2999

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- Monitoring:** The Division of Public Health (DPH) is responsible for monitoring isolated or quarantined individuals by a daily phone call or a home visit. If an individual is isolated at the hospital, the hospital will notify DPH daily with a status update.
- What happens if the isolated or quarantined person becomes ill?** If an individual becomes ill while quarantined at home, the individual will notify their primary care physician and DPH about the illness. Depending on the availability of hospital beds, the type of disease, and the availability of home care, DPH may arrange for alternate care and/or provide essential services.
- Essential services:** If necessary, DPH is responsible for assisting isolated and/or quarantined individuals to provide essential services. Essential services may include food, water, medical care, trash removal, and/or financial support.
- Whom do you call?** Division of Public Health: 1-888-295-5156.
- Additional information:** Visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website: <https://www.cdc.gov/>.

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