Red Cliff Updates Quarantine Guidelines

Quarantine is used to separate someone who might have been exposed to COVID-19 and may develop illness away from other people. On July 1, 2021, based on the Covid-19 situation, the Red Cliff Community Health Center revised the quarantine protocol to 10-days.

On September 22, 2021, Bayfield County Public Health Department issued a recommendation to revert to the 14-day quarantine period for unvaccinated individuals. “We are strongly advising a full 14-day quarantine for close contacts of positive cases due to the increased transmission of the Delta variant and more severe disease and hospitalization. The other two options previously offered a 7-day and 10-day release from quarantine date with good symptom monitoring, reporting, and testing – these options are no longer recommended. The shortened quarantines were developed prior to the Delta variant circulating as the predominant strain, and when residual risk was lower than it is now for our communities.”

Red Cliff Community Health Center Medical Director, Providers and Public Health agree with this recommendation. The goal is to protect both children that are too young for vaccination and those that are unable to be vaccinated for medical reasons. We also strongly encourage anyone that is eligible for the Covid-19 vaccine to get one – vaccines are the most effective way to protect the community.

Effective October 1, 2021, the updated quarantine protocols will be implemented.

**Updated Quarantine Protocol for Unvaccinated Close Contacts**

- 14-day quarantine period and remained symptom free.
- Continuous self-monitoring and reporting through the 14-day period.
- Follow up PCR Covid test at day 14 prior to release.

**Protocol for Fully Vaccinated Close Contacts**

Fully vaccinated individuals that have close contacts with someone with COVID-19, and show no symptoms, are not required to quarantine.

People are considered fully vaccinated:
- 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna, or
- 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen vaccine