



On 12/23, the CDC issued new guidance for health care workers related to quarantine requirements following a Covid-19 exposure (note that the guidelines being reported in the media are different than the ones specific to health care workers). Included in the new guidelines is a new definition for “vaccinated,” which has been updated to mean an individual who has “**been boosted OR completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 6 months OR completed the primary series of Johnson & Johnson (J&J) vaccine within the last 2 months.**” **If you have questions regarding this new CDC guidance, please contact your supervisor.**

Whether or not you are “fully vaccinated” has a direct impact on the length of time you must quarantine if exposed to a Covid-positive individual. **If you have received your COVID-19 booster shot and have not yet provided a copy of your vaccination card to Human Resources, please do so** in order for us to ensure appropriate compliance with the CDC’s quarantine guidelines. Copies of your card can be emailed to ltracz@abramsonseniorcare.org or faxed to 215-371-1877.

If you have not yet received a Covid-19 booster, and it has been greater than 6 months since your last Pfizer or Moderna vaccine or 2 months since your J&J vaccine, we strongly encourage you to consider receiving the booster. According to the CDC, public health experts are starting to see reduced vaccination protection over time against mild and moderate disease, especially among certain populations. Community vaccination sites are widely available and can be found by visiting www.vaccines.gov. Full vaccination remains the best protection against Covid-19.

Additionally, with many people wishing to self-test via home rapid Covid test kit following the holidays, we wanted to make you aware that the FDA is studying how well various antigen tests detect the Omicron variant. Not all home test kits appear to be able to detect the Omicron variant; before using a home test kit, you may wish to check the manufacturer at the following link:

https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/coronavirus-covid-19-and-medical-devices/sars-cov-2-viral-mutations-impact-covid-19-tests?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery#omicronvariantimpact

As always, the best way to reduce Covid-19 exposure is to always use proper PPE and socially distance when possible. And as a reminder, **any exposure should be reported to your supervisor as soon as possible.**

If you have any questions related to this information, please contact your supervisor. Thank you!