

GALVESTON COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT

Protecting and Promoting the Optimal Health and Well-Being of Galveston County

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Recent updates to CDC guidelines regarding quarantine times for COVID-19 “close contacts” provide the option under certain circumstances of shortening the quarantine duration of these contacts from fourteen to ten days. **Despite this recent ten-day option however, the optimal time of quarantine remains fourteen days. Per the CDC’s most recent update, published December 2nd, “Any option to shorten quarantine risks being less effective than the currently recommended 14-day quarantine.”** The same CDC update also opens by stating that local public health authorities should determine and establish quarantine decisions for their respective jurisdictions.

The question of shortening quarantine times was also reviewed by the Regional Consortium of Local Health Authorities, which is comprised of medical experts from both Harris and Galveston counties. The Consortium concluded that the quarantine time for COVID-19 close contacts should remain at fourteen days.

In Galveston County, the COVID-19 case count continues to rise drastically in both schools and throughout the general population. Several schools in the County have seen heightened outbreaks, strongly suggesting the rate and pattern of COVID transmission is occurring within these buildings. Shortening the quarantine period will only enhance the rate of transmission, resulting in greater risk of infection and illness to students, teachers and their families.

The Galveston County Health District will continue to require a 14 day quarantine for all Covid-19 close contacts and expects that the school districts will exclude students with close contact from schools for a full 14 days.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Philip Keiser MD' with a circled 'M' at the end.

Philip Keiser, MD
Local Health Authority
Galveston County

Public Health Services • Coastal Health & Wellness • Emergency Medical Services • Animal Resource Center

The Galveston County Health District (GCHD) is the local public health agency for Galveston County, Texas. GCHD provides services and programs that protect the everyday health and well-being of Galveston County.

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