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TO: Municipal Clients  
DATE: January 6, 2022  
RE: Evolving COVID Guidance – January 2022

Please allow this correspondence to address the recent revisions to COVID Guidance offered by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH).

### **CDC GUIDANCE**

On December 27, 2021, the CDC modified its timeframes of isolation and quarantine for those exposed or ill with COVID-19. The NYSDOH has issued guidance in January 4, 2022 indicating it is aligning its guidance with the CDC.

#### **i. Isolation**

People testing positive with COVID-19 must isolate for five (5) days. Isolation refers to behavior after a confirmed infection. If, after the five (5) day isolation period the person is asymptomatic or their symptoms are resolving, they must follow that initial isolation period with five (5) days of wearing a mask. “Resolving” is defined by CDC as being without a fever for twenty-four hours.

#### **ii. Quarantine**

The CDC has also updated the recommended period of quarantine for anyone in the general public who is exposed to COVID-19. For those who are unvaccinated or are more than six (6) months out from their second dose<sup>1</sup> and not yet boosted, CDC recommends quarantine for five (5) days followed by strict mask use for an additional five (5) days.

If quarantine is not feasible, the exposed person must wear a mask for ten (10) days after exposure.

Those who have received booster shots do not need to quarantine following an exposure but should wear a mask for ten (10) days after the exposure.

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<sup>1</sup> This also applies to those who are two (2) months past their Johnson and Johnson vaccine.



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### **Paid Leave**

As discussed in our January of 2021 letter, guidance and subsequent legislation enacted determined that public employees shall be provided with up to fourteen (14) days of paid sick leave during quarantine or isolation. This leave was not to be deducted from the employee's accrued sick leave. This remains the law. However, the leave contemplated under that law was only when the employee was subject to an order of quarantine. Based on current guidance, the orders of quarantine are no longer extending to fourteen (14) days and, accordingly, the paid leave should be consistent with quarantine expectations as set forth on the first page of this Memorandum.

As always, please feel free to contact us in the office should you have any questions or concerns.