UNDERSTANDING COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS: Social Distancing, Self-monitoring, Quarantine, Isolation, and Actions everyone should take

What do these terms mean? What actions do I take if asked?

**ACTIONS FOR EVERYONE**
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. This includes after using the restroom, coughing or sneezing, or when they are visibly dirty. If you do not have soap and water nearby, use a hand sanitizer with 60-95% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a disposable tissue or upper part of your sleeve. Dispose of tissues in a lined trash can. Wash your hands immediately afterward.
- Clean your frequently touched or used surfaces daily with a solution of 1/4 cup bleach and a gallon of water. Disinfectant sprays or wipes can also be used. These surfaces include phones, tablets, keyboards, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, counters, tabletops, and bedside tables. Wear rubber gloves if necessary and make sure the area is properly ventilated.
- Stay home when feeling sick.
- Wear a face covering whenever in enclosed public spaces. This can be a homemade cloth mask, bandana, or scarf.
- If you need medical care, call your doctor.

**SOCIAL DISTANCING**
We should ALL be practicing social distancing. It helps protect everyone in our community, especially those who are most vulnerable, from illness. What does this look like?

**Individuals can:**  
- Keep six feet between people as much as possible.
- Get curbside pick up for groceries or restaurant orders instead of going inside.
- Use online or drive-through services at the bank.
- Avoid public places at their busiest times.
- Avoid getting together in large social groups.

**Businesses & organizations can:**  
- Have employees tele-work.
- Limit in-person meetings and travel.
- Modify operations to provide more online options and restrict people from gathering.

**SELF-MONITORING**
Who should do it? People without symptoms.

**Who should do it?** People without symptoms, but who have a higher potential of becoming sick because of where they traveled or having had contact with someone being tested for COVID-19.

**Actions to take**
- Practice social distancing.
- Record your temperature and watch for symptoms, daily.
- If symptoms develop, CALL your doctor to explain symptoms and possible exposure before going in.
- If symptoms develop, you may move into self-isolation.

**SELF-QUARANTINE**
Who should do it? People without symptoms, but who have a higher potential of becoming sick because of where they traveled or having had contact with someone being tested for COVID-19.

**Actions to take**
- Stay home and self-monitor for 14 days.
- Under no circumstances should you go to work or leave your home during this time.
- Household members should practice social distancing.
- Report your daily temperature and symptoms to the Health Department during your quarantine.

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www.allegan county.org/health
Who should do it?
People sick with symptoms of COVID-19, test positive for COVID-19, or diagnosed as a probable for COVID-19. Not sick enough to be hospitalized.

Actions to take

- **Under no circumstance should you go to work, school or public places.** You should only consider leaving your home if you need medical attention.
  - Avoid using public transportation to get to your medical provider or emergency department.
  - Wear a mask over your nose and mouth if you must leave your house to seek medical care.
- **Avoid handling pets or other animals** while you are sick.
- **Cover your coughs and sneezes** with a disposable tissue or the upper part of your sleeve. Dispose of tissues in a lined trash can. Wash your hands immediately afterward.
- **Wash your hands frequently** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. This includes after using the restroom, coughing or sneezing, or when they are visibly dirty. If you do not have access to soap and water, use a hand sanitizer with 60% - 95% alcohol.
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth** with unwashed hands.
- **Clean your frequently touched or used surfaces daily** with a solution of 1/4 cup bleach and a gallon of water. Disinfectant sprays or wipes can also be used. These surfaces includes phones, tablets, keyboards, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, counters, tabletops, and bedside tables. Wear rubber gloves if necessary and make sure the area is properly ventilated.
- **Clean any item or surface that may have blood, mucus, vomit, urine, stool or other body fluids on them.**
- **Make sure your home has good airflow.** Open windows if weather permits or use the air conditioner.

If you live with others:

- Separate yourself from other household members and pets whenever possible.
  - You should stay in a specific room and away from other household members.
  - Use a separate bathroom if possible.
  - If you must share a bathroom wipe down all surfaces after the patient uses it. Separate toothbrushes.
  - If you share a shower, do not share razors, washcloths or body sponges/poufs.
  - If you must enter a shared space put a mask over your nose and mouth before leaving your room.
- Do not share items with your household members or pets such as dishes, drinking cups, silverware, towels or bedding. After using these items, they should be washed with soap and hot water.
- Household members should practice self-quarantine.

If you live alone:

- Do not open your door to anyone. If someone is dropping off groceries or other items for you, have them leave it at your doorstep and wait until they leave to open the door.
- Do not cook food for anyone other than yourself.

When seeking care at a healthcare facility:

- Call ahead to get direction from your health care provider. They may ask you to meet them outside or usher you into a different entrance than the general public uses.
- Avoid using public transportation to get to your medical provider or emergency department.
  - If you are unable to drive yourself and do not have a ride, call 9-1-1 for transport by ambulance.
  - If someone is giving you a ride, wear a mask that covers your mouth and nose while you are in the vehicle with them.
- If you are driving yourself, apply a mask that covers your mouth and nose before exiting your vehicle.