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Change in quarantine causes confusion

Ithaca, Stanton, St. Johns- On April 5, 2021, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services announced a change in quarantine guidance from as few as 10 days to 14 days for those exposed to COVID-19 in the State of Michigan.

The quarantine change was recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in response to the dramatic increase in cases and variant spread of the COVID-19 virus.

This change has been especially confusing for some Michiganders who were recently contacted by Traceforce, the contact tracing platform used by many health departments, including Mid-Michigan District Health Department. Traceforce did not update its system to the new 14-day quarantine until April 15, 2021. As a result, Traceforce inadvertently sent out letters to numerous close contacts informing them that they need to quarantine for 10 days, when they actually need to quarantine for 14 days. If you were identified as a close contact on or after April 5, you do need to quarantine for 14 days, even if you received a letter from Traceforce stating otherwise.

Schools and businesses located in Clinton, Gratiot, and Montcalm Counties are reminded to follow the new quarantine guidance.

Mid-Michigan District Health Department would also like to remind the community that proof of antibodies or a negative COVID-19 test result during quarantine will not reduce or end quarantine. The only close contacts excluded from quarantine are those who have been infected with COVID-19 within the last 90 days or are fully vaccinated for two or more weeks prior to exposure. The health department would also like to point out that the length of quarantine and release from quarantine is determined by public health, not ones' healthcare provider.

For more info on quarantine and isolation, visit the Mid-Michigan District Health Department's website at: <https://www.mmdhd.org/covid-testing/>.

Mid-Michigan District Health Department serves the residents of Clinton, Gratiot, and Montcalm Counties.

We take action to protect, maintain and improve the health of our community.

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