



## **Facts about Quarantine and Isolation**

Quarantine and isolation are public health measures used to prevent or control the spread of communicable diseases which present a risk of serious harm to the public. The Iowa Department of Public Health (Department) and county boards of health (local boards) have the authority to impose quarantine and isolation in very limited circumstances to prevent the spread of certain diseases. Quarantine and isolation are used to protect the public by preventing exposure to infected persons or persons who may be infected.

### **Here are some facts about quarantine and isolation you should know:**

- \* The Department and local boards will impose quarantine or isolation only in the event of an outbreak of a "quarantinable disease," which means a serious and unusual or novel disease such as cholera, diphtheria, infectious tuberculosis, plague, SARS, smallpox, certain viral hemorrhagic fevers, and other diseases spread person to person which present a risk of serious harm to the public's health.
  
- \* Quarantine means confining a person who has been exposed to a quarantinable disease to see if they become ill and infectious to others. Quarantine is imposed for a period of time equal to the longest incubation period of the disease, which could range from a couple of days to two weeks, depending on the disease.
  
- \* Isolation means confining a person who is actually infected with a quarantinable disease for a period of time that they are infectious to others, which could range from a couple of days to weeks, depending on the disease.
  
- \* Prior to imposing quarantine or isolation the Department and local boards will request that an individual voluntarily confine him or herself to their private home. Only if a person refuses to voluntarily confine themselves will the Department or local boards consider mandatory quarantine or isolation.
  
- \* The Department and local boards are required by law to impose mandatory quarantine or isolation by the least restrictive means necessary to prevent the spread of the disease. Typically this means the exposed or infected person will be quarantined or isolated in their home.
  
- \* Only if a person refuses to comply with voluntary home confinement and refuses to comply with quarantine or isolation in their own home will the Department or a local board consider imposing quarantine or isolation to a facility. If a person is quarantined or isolated in a facility the Department or the local board will ensure that the person is confined to a safe and hygienic facility and that they have access to adequate food, medical care, and a means of communication with those outside the facility.

BEFORE THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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DIRECTED TO: ) [insert case #]  
)  
[insert full name and )  
address of subject of order] ) FACILITY ISOLATION ORDER

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The Iowa Department of Public Health (Department) has determined that you have recently developed some symptoms of [insert name of quarantinable disease (qd)]. [insert qd] is a disease which is spread from person to person and is associated with [insert symptoms of qd -- fever, cough, respiratory illness, etc.]. [insert qd] presents a risk of serious harm to public health and if it spreads in the community severe public health consequences may result.

The Department has determined that it is necessary to confine your movement to a specific facility to prevent further spread of this disease. The Department has determined that isolation in your home and other less restrictive alternatives are not acceptable because [insert the reason home isolation is not acceptable or the person violated a previously issued home isolation order, the person does not have an appropriate home setting conducive to home isolation, etc.] The Department is therefore ordering you to comply with the following provisions during the entire period of isolation:

1. **Terms of confinement.** You are ordered to remain at the isolation facility, \_\_\_\_\_ [insert name and address of facility], from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ [insert dates of isolation].

2. **Requirements during confinement.** During the period of isolation:

- a. You must not leave the isolation facility at any time unless you have received prior written authorization from the Department to do so.
- b. You must not come into contact with anyone except the following persons:
  - (i) other persons who are also under similar isolation order at the isolation facility;
  - (ii) authorized healthcare providers and other staff at the isolation facility;
  - (iii) authorized Department staff or other persons acting on behalf of the Department; and
  - (iv) such other persons as authorized by the Department.
- c. Your daily needs, including food, shelter, and medical care, will be provided for you during the period of isolation at the isolation facility. You should bring clothing, toiletries, and other personal items with you to the isolation facility. You will have limited access to a telephone at the isolation facility. You may bring your cell phone with you should you desire to have greater access to a means of communication.

- d. You should inform your employer that you are under isolation order and are not authorized to physically come to the work place. You should be aware that Iowa law prohibits an employer from firing, demoting, or otherwise discriminating against an employee due to the compliance of an employee with an isolation order issued by the Department. (Iowa Code section 139A.13A).

3. **Information about [qd].** You should review the information contained at Attachment A for information about [qd]. You should refer to information provided at the isolation facility to address specific concerns and questions you have about [qd]. In order to find out more information about [qd] and its symptoms and spread, you may also access the Department's web-page at [www.idph.state.ia.us](http://www.idph.state.ia.us). If you do not have access to the internet from the isolation facility, you may contact the Department at 1-800-362-2736.

4. **Legal authority.** This order is issued pursuant to the legal authority contained at Iowa Code chapter 139A, [include Iowa Code chapter 135 if a public health disaster exists], and 641 Iowa Administrative Code chapter 1, a copy of which is labeled Attachment B and is attached to this order for your review. The Department shall comply with the principles for quarantine and isolation contained in subrule 1.9(3) of this attachment when issuing and implementing this order.

5. **Ensuring compliance.** In order to ensure that you strictly comply with this Isolation Order the Department or persons authorized by the Department may regularly inspect the isolation facility.

6. **Violations of order.** If you fail to comply with this Isolation Order you may be ordered to be isolated in a more restrictive facility. In addition, failure to comply with this order is a simple misdemeanor for which you may be arrested, fined, and imprisoned.

7. **Your rights B appeal rights.** While under isolation you have the rights as described in subrule 1.9(8) of Attachment B. In addition, you have the right to appeal this order pursuant to subrule 1.9(7) of Attachment B.

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DIRECTOR or MEDICAL DIRECTOR  
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
Lucas State Office Building  
Des Moines, IA 50319

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DATE

Attachments to this Order:

Attachment A -- Facts About [qd]

Attachment B B 641 Iowa Administrative Code chapter 1