What Happens Next After I Test Positive for COVID-19?

STAY HOME. Whether you have symptoms or not, do not go out into public. You are contagious and can easily spread the virus. Ask someone to help you out with your errands. Only go out for essentials like medical care. Keep a distance between you and your family members to prevent them from getting sick. Household members of a positive case need to self-quarantine and also should not go to school, work or any public place. If you are a household contact with ongoing contact with a positive case, your quarantine will continue for 14 days after the person who tests positive is released from their isolation. Household members should also get tested and still quarantine if awaiting test results.

ANSWER YOUR PHONE. You will get a call or text from the Ottawa County Department of Public Health requesting information so we can work together to slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community. A public health worker or an automated survey (as seen on the right) will ask you how you're feeling, whether you've been hospitalized and who you may have been in close contact with at home, work or other public locations and gatherings.

Your information is kept confidential and is HIPAA compliant. We do not gather any banking, log in or private information like social security numbers.

FOLLOW THE 10-DAY ISOLATION PERIOD. Within 24 hours of filling out your initial survey or speaking with a public health worker, you will receive a preliminary isolation letter via email. Your official isolation letter will be mailed to you. During your 10-day isolation period, you will receive daily text messages to complete another survey that asks how you've been feeling and whether you've remained home and away from others.

PROVIDE CLOSE CONTACTS’ INFORMATION. A separate and anonymous survey goes out to your close contacts to notify them of exposure. A close contact is someone you were next to for a total of 15 minutes and within 6 feet or less. However, each case is assessed and more contacts may be determined. The close contacts will receive a similar survey like the one you initially received and they will need to start a 14-day quarantine period.

ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO GET TESTED. Your close contacts should get tested for COVID-19 but a negative test result does not reduce the quarantine time since a person can develop symptoms and infect others (even with no symptoms) during this two-week timeframe. To find testing locations, visit www.miOttawa.org/Coronavirus or www.Michigan.gov/CoronavirusTest.

STAY VIGILANT. Scientists are still researching if and when a person may become reinfected with COVID-19. Please continue to practice the disease prevention methods by maintaining physical distance from others outside of your household, wearing a mask, staying home when you’re not feeling well, avoiding touching your face and frequently washing hands and disinfecting surfaces.