

Know the Difference

Isolation vs. Quarantine

Isolation

For people who are ill

- Separates people who have a very contagious disease from those who are healthy.
- Restricts the movement of people who have a contagious disease to stop the spread of illness.
- Protects healthy people from getting a contagious disease.
- Lets people who have a contagious disease be cared for in their homes, hospitals or a designated facility.
- Is usually voluntary, but federal, state and local laws may require isolation of people who have a contagious disease to protect the public.



Quarantine

For people who have been exposed, but are not ill

- Applies to people who are not yet ill, but have been exposed to a very contagious disease that could be spread to others.
- Applies to the separation and restriction of movements of people.
- Is a public health strategy to stop the spread of a very contagious disease.
- Protects the public from very contagious diseases.



Social Distancing

One way to help stop the spread of a very contagious disease such as COVID-19 is to limit close contact of people with each other also known as social distancing. Social distancing can include:

- Work telecommuting
- School cancellations
- Cancellation of public gatherings
- Isolation of people who have a contagious disease
- Liberal work leave policies
- Quarantine of people exposed to contagious disease