

What is the difference between isolation and quarantine?

Isolation and quarantine are tools to help prevent the spread of a contagious disease.

ISOLATION

Isolation is for people who are already sick OR have tested positive.



Isolation separates and restricts the movement of sick people so they can't spread disease to healthy people.



Isolation is a routine procedure in hospitals and healthcare facilities.



Isolation is usually voluntary, but in a public health emergency, officials have the authority to isolate people who are sick.

QUARANTINE

Quarantine is for people who are not sick, but may have been exposed.



Quarantined people may or may not become sick.



Quarantined people may stay at home or another location so they don't spread disease to healthy people.



If you are quarantined and you become ill, you can seek medical treatment from a healthcare provider.



Quarantine can be voluntary, but in a public health emergency, officials have the authority to quarantine people who have been exposed to an infectious disease.



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