



# Georgia Adopts Latest CDC Exposure Guidance Reducing Coronavirus Quarantine Period To 7 To 10 Days

Insights

12.31.20

Georgia Governor Brian Kemp issued a [December 30 Executive Order](#) — effective through January 15 — that reduces the coronavirus quarantine period for those exposed to the COVID-19 virus to either seven or ten days for most businesses. In all other respects, the [December 30 Executive Order](#) keeps in place the provisions from the [September, October, and November Executive Orders](#). What do you need to know about this order, and what should you do as you continue to reopen and operate your business?

## Differences Between Latest Order And Past Orders

The [December 30 Executive Order](#) follows the [CDC's early December guidance](#), first reported [here](#), put in place by the CDC to make it easier for people to quarantine after exposure to COVID-19 by reducing the time they cannot work. As the CDC also noted at the time, a shorter quarantine period would also lessen stress on the public health system, especially when new infections are rapidly rising nationwide.

The [December 30 Executive Order](#) now includes guidance for most businesses to follow “Post-Exposure Quarantine Protocol,” in accordance with the new CDC guidance on exposure. Once employers have conducted a “6-15-48” analysis, the current options for employers in Georgia who have employees exposed to COVID-19 are to have exposed employees either:

- Quarantine at their home or place of residence for 14 days from the date of most recent exposure;
- Quarantine at their home or place of residence for at least 10 days from the date of most recent exposure, then practice extreme diligence in monitoring for Symptoms of COVID-19, wearing a face covering, and social distancing until 14 days have passed since the date of most recent exposure; or
- Quarantine at their home or place of residence for at least seven days from the date of most recent exposure if a COVID-19 test was taken no earlier than day five of quarantine and a negative result is received, then practice extreme diligence in monitoring for Symptoms of COVID-19, wearing a face covering, and social distancing until 14 days have passed since the date of most recent exposure.

Georgia's Department of Public Health produced [a useful graphic illustrating the three options that can be found here](#).

The [December 30 Executive Order](#) also requires that if at any time during the Post-Exposure Quarantine Protocol time period a person experiences symptoms of COVID-19, that person must seek a COVID-19 test, isolate until test results are received, and proceed in accordance with the test results and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and [Georgia Department of Public Health guidelines](#). While this language would seem to require testing for all exposed employees, given Georgia's deference to CDC guidelines, employers may still use the [CDC's time-based method](#) for allowing sick employees to safely return to work.

### **What Should Employers Do?**

Non-critical infrastructure employers should follow the new guidance about in order to bring exposed employees back to work safely. As for critical infrastructure employers, the [December 30 Executive Order](#) does not require critical infrastructure to comply with these new protocols, but [as previously discussed here](#), given the CDC's latest guidance on critical infrastructure employers allowing exposed but asymptomatic employees to work without quarantining only as "[a last resort and only in limited circumstances](#)," these new, shorter quarantine timeframes are another option for those employers to keep their operations running smoothly if they cannot meet the last resort threshold in the new CDC requirements.

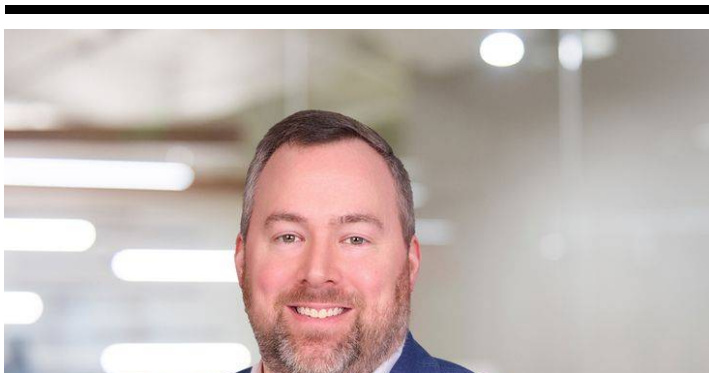
### **Conclusion**

Fisher Phillips will continue to monitor the rapidly developing COVID-19 situation and provide updates as appropriate. Make sure you are subscribed to [Fisher Phillips' Alert System](#) to get the most up-to-date information. For further information, contact your Fisher Phillips attorney, any attorney in our [Atlanta](#) office, or any member of [our Post-Pandemic Strategy Group Roster](#).

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