What is the difference between isolation and quarantine?

Isolation and quarantine help protect the public by preventing exposure to people who have or may have a contagious disease.

- **Isolation** separates sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick.

- **Quarantine** separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick.

### ISOLATION

- Isolation is for people who are already sick.

  - 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 officials have the authority to isolate people who are sick if necessary.

### 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 officials have the authority to quarantine people who have been exposed to an infectious disease if necessary.