

Control Infection Risk When You Reopen Doors

As you reopen your doors to the public, you and your employees should take serious steps to mitigate the threat of COVID-19 in your pharmacy. An infection on your staff can jeopardize the health of your employees and the safe operation of your pharmacy.

1. **Closely monitor the infection trend in your geographical area.**

The *New York Times* maintains a constantly updated, color-coded [map](#) showing the infection status of every county in the U.S. **Don't open your doors if cases are still accelerating in your area.**



2. **Monitor the health of all employees and check them daily before they enter the pharmacy.** This screening should include a temperature and symptoms check. Self-screening is acceptable as long as employees are well-informed and consistent in the effort. Make sure you have an [up-to-date list of COVID-19 symptoms](#) — they now include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and loss of taste/smell.
3. **Post a sign on entrance doors discouraging people from entering if they have cold- or flu-like symptoms. Encourage them and any patients who are elderly or compromised to request delivery, use the drive-through, receive scripts in the parking lot or get a healthy friend or relative to pick them up.**
4. **If you have a high-traffic store, consider limiting the number of people you allow inside.** Post signs at your doors and markers inside for maintaining safe distancing (6 feet) in lines and aisles. Use printed floor decals or colored duct tape to indicate how people should distance or line up.
5. **Regularly disinfect workstations and counters with diluted bleach, alcohol or spray disinfectant.** (Supplies of these products have improved greatly.) **Disinfect around all cash registers and where patients pick up or drop off prescriptions.** Sanitize the handles and surrounding area on all entry doors and any other frequently touched surfaces. **Set alarms to conduct these cleanings at regular intervals.**
6. **Consider installing acrylic or plexiglass shield barriers (often known as “sneeze guards”) at all cash registers and counter locations where you typically interact with patients. If you have a consult room and are resuming patient meetings, be sure to have a tabletop shield barrier in that room.**
7. **Make sure all employees know the risks, symptoms and transmission of COVID-19. Employees should use safety precautions at home and elsewhere, and practice social distancing outside the home. Make sure employees tell you immediately if they or any member of their household are not feeling well.**
8. **Have a plan in place in case you or one of your employees is exposed to COVID-19. Use the CDC flowchart on the next page as a guide.**
9. **Make sure your employees know what to do if they identify a patient with [COVID-19 symptoms](#).** (The CDC recommends that any health-care provider who is concerned that a patient may have COVID-19 and wants to report a case should contact their local or state health department immediately.)
10. **If you are conducting (or planning to conduct) testing for COVID-19 infection or antibodies, consider setting up your test site in the parking lot or some other location outside the pharmacy.**

CDC Flowchart for Managing Employees Who Have Been Exposed to COVID-19

