

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



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Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

Return to Work Criteria for Essential Personnel with Confirmed or Suspected COVID-19 April 16, 2020

This is a summary of guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Use one of the below strategies to determine when essential personnel may return to work. The test-based strategy is preferred for health care providers.

1. Test-based strategy. Exclude from work until:
 - Resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and**
 - Improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath), **and**
 - Negative results of an FDA Emergency Use Authorized molecular assay for COVID-19 from at least two consecutive nasopharyngeal swab specimens collected ≥ 24 hours apart (total of two negative specimens).
2. Non-test-based strategy. Exclude from work until:
 - At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed *since recovery* defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and** improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); **and**,
 - At least 7 days *since symptoms first appeared*

Individuals with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 who have not had any symptoms should be excluded from work until 10 days have passed since the date of their first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test assuming they have not subsequently developed symptoms since their positive test.

In an outbreak setting, healthcare personnel with symptoms of COVID-19, that either test negative or are not tested, are to be managed as a case. They are to be excluded until non-test based exclusion criteria are met.

If the individuals were never tested for COVID-19, but have an alternate diagnosis (e.g., tested positive for influenza), criteria for return to work should be based on that diagnosis.

Additional Requirements for Health Care Providers including Paramedics and Emergency Medical Technicians After Returning to Work.

- Wear a facemask at all times while in the healthcare facility until all symptoms are completely resolved, or until 14 days after illness onset, whichever is longer.
- Restrict from contact with immunocompromised patients (e.g., transplant, hematology-oncology) until 14 days after illness onset.
- Self-monitor for symptoms and seek re-evaluation from occupational health if respiratory symptoms recur or worsen.