



Arkansas Department of Health

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End of Isolation Guidance for Employers after Employees' Positive COVID-19 Test

To address the increased strain on public health resources due to the surge of COVID-19 cases, the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) will be prioritizing the investigation of cases in accordance with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. **ADH will no longer issue documentation stating when an individual who tests positive for COVID-19 may return to work or other obligations. Employers are to use the following [guidance on isolation](#) in determining their own return to work policy:**

Individuals with COVID-19 who have no symptoms may end isolation once:

- 10 days have passed and no symptoms have developed since the date of positive test.

Individuals with COVID-19 who have mild symptoms may end isolation once:

- 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared **AND**
- Have not had any fever of 100.4°F or higher for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicine **AND**
- Symptoms, such as cough or shortness of breath, are resolved or improving.

Individuals with COVID-19 who have weakened immune systems or have been hospitalized may end isolation once:

- 20 days have passed since symptoms first appeared **AND**
- Have not had any fever of 100.4°F or higher for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicine **AND**
- Symptoms, such as cough or shortness of breath, are resolved or are improving.

All individuals who have recovered from COVID-19 should also continue to wear a face mask and practice social distancing after their isolation has ended.

In addition, **close contacts** of all cases (defined as individuals who were within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more, with or without a facemask during the positive patients' infectious period) should self-quarantine and self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms. **Testing (PCR or antigen) for close contacts is recommended no earlier than 5 days after the last date of exposure to the positive case.**

Individuals who have completed their isolation period may receive the COVID-19 vaccine in accordance with CDC recommendations and the state's COVID-19 vaccination plan, [which can be found at this link](#).