

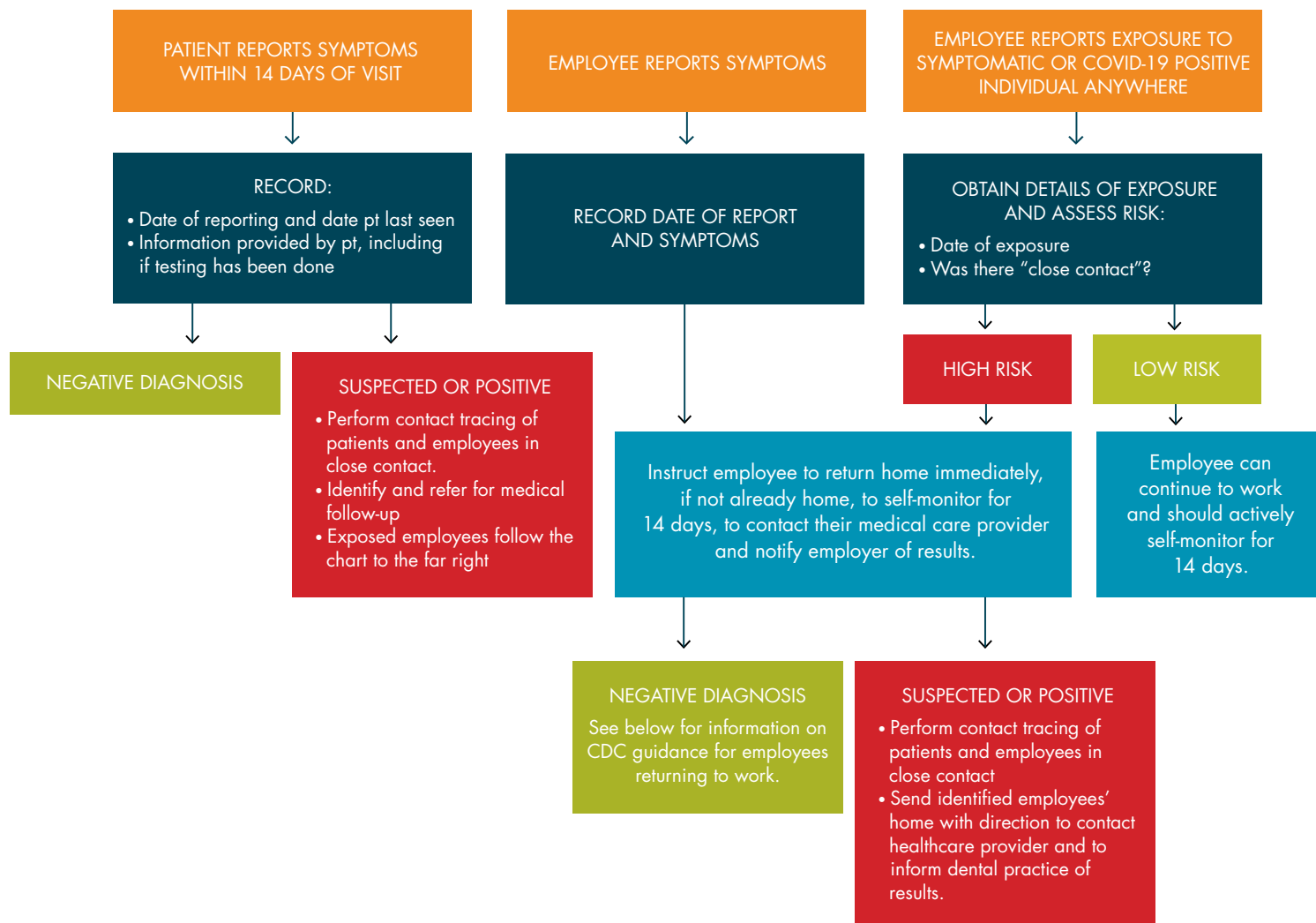


BACK TO PRACTICE PATIENT CARE

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Symptoms/Positive Test for COVID-19



Glossary of terms:

- **Close contact** – Within 6 feet of an infected or symptomatic person or within operating area; 15 min exposure without wearing PPE that is NIOSH or CDC approved (i.e. not cloth masks).
- **Screening and symptoms guidance** – [Employee Screening Form](#)
- **Contact tracing** – Identifying patients and employees in the office in contact with the infected or symptomatic patient or employee. Advise person to seek medical evaluation.

Additional information if you have an employee diagnosed with COVID-19:

Other employees may remain working if asymptomatic. Whether the dental practice remains open depends on whether it can continue to operate without the employees who are sent home.

Contact workers comp carrier if employee reports positive diagnosis for COVID-19.

Following is the [CDC's guidance](#) on when an employee suspected or having COVID-19 may return to work:

Employers should not require sick employee to provide a negative COVID-19 test result or healthcare provider's note to return to work. Employees with COVID-19 who have stayed home can stop home isolation and return to work when they have met one of the following sets of criteria:

Option 1:

If, in consultation with a healthcare provider and local public health authorities knowledgeable about locally available testing resources, it is determined an **employee will not have a test** to determine if they are still contagious, the employee can leave home and return to work after these three conditions have been met:

- The employee has had no fever for at least 72 hours (that is, 3 full days of no fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers)

AND

- respiratory symptoms have improved (for example, cough or shortness of breath have improved)

AND

- at least 10 days have passed since their symptoms first appeared

Option 2:

If, in consultation with a healthcare provider and local public health authorities knowledgeable about locally available testing resources, it is determined the employee will be tested to determine if the employee is still contagious, the employee can leave home after these three conditions have been met:

- The employee no longer has a fever (without the use of medicine that reduces fevers)

AND

- respiratory symptoms have improved (for example, cough or shortness of breath have improved)

AND

- they received two negative tests in a row, at least 24 hours apart. Their doctor should follow [CDC guidelines](#).