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

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

Return to Work Criteria for Essential Personnel with Confirmed or Suspected COVID-19
April 3, 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

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 may discontinue home isolation when at least 7 days have passed since the date of their first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test and have had no symptoms.

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.
- Adhere to hand and respiratory hygiene in CDC’s interim infection control guidance (e.g., cover nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing, dispose of tissues in waste receptacles).
- Self-monitor for symptoms and seek re-evaluation from occupational health if respiratory symptoms recur or worsen.