



Provider Health & Safety Alert Updated CDC Guidance for Return-to-Work for Healthcare Personnel April 30, 2020

As the CDC continues to compile and analyze the infectivity and transmission of the COVID-19 virus, new Criteria for Return to Work for Healthcare Personnel with Confirmed or Suspected COVID-19 (Interim Guidance) have been released.

The significant changes relate to the change to a “**symptom-based strategy**” for those with symptoms and a “**time-based strategy**” for those without symptoms.

Additionally, this guidance **extends the duration of exclusion from work to at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared**. This change was driven by evidence suggesting a longer duration of viral shedding and hence the concern for possible continued infectivity.

Criteria for Return to Work is based on the confirmed COVID -19 provider being symptomatic or asymptomatic.

Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19 and Symptomatic

Symptom-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 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared

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 COVID-19 molecular assay for detection of SARS-CoV-2 RNA from at least two consecutive nasopharyngeal swab specimens collected ≥ 24 hours apart (total of two negative specimens).

Laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 and Asymptomatic

Time-based strategy

Exclude 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.

If they develop symptoms, then the **symptom-based or test-based strategy** should be used.



Test-based strategy

Exclude from work until:

Negative results of an FDA Emergency Use Authorized COVID-19 molecular assay for detection of SARS-CoV-2 RNA from at least two consecutive nasopharyngeal swab specimens collected ≥ 24 hours apart (total of two negative specimens).

Regardless of the strategy employed by a provider, all should continue to self-monitor for symptoms, and seek re-evaluation from occupational health if respiratory symptoms recur or worsen.

The guidance for non-health care providers to return to work is still seven (7) days from symptom onset, but must continue to wear cloth face covering or a facemask.

The full documentation can be found at the CDC Website link below:

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/return-to-work.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fhealthcare-facilities%2Fhcp-return-work.html