

Safely Returning to Work

When can an employee who tests positive for Covid-19 return to work safely? Employees should not return to work until they have met the criteria to discontinue home isolation and have consulted with a healthcare provider.



For employees WITH Covid-19 symptoms who tested positive.

Such employees may discontinue home isolation when they meet all three criteria below:

- At least **10 days** have passed since symptom onset **AND**
- At least **24 hours** have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **AND**
- Other symptoms have improved.

For employees WITHOUT Covid-19 symptoms who tested positive.

Such employees who never developed symptoms but tested positive for Covid-19 may discontinue home isolation 10 days after the date of their first positive RT-PCR test for SARS-CoV-2 RNA.



Should an employee get “retested”?

- According to the latest CDC guidelines (published July 20, 2020), employers **should not require sick employees to provide a Covid-19 test result** or a healthcare provider’s note to validate their illness, qualify for sick leave, or to return to work.
- Healthcare provider offices and medical facilities may be extremely busy and not able to provide such documentation in a timely manner.
- Additionally, a **test-based strategy is no longer recommended** to determine when to discontinue home isolation, except in certain circumstances.

SOURCE: [CDC, General Business Frequently Asked Questions](#) and [Discontinuation of Isolation for Persons with COVID-19 Not in Healthcare Settings](#).