VDH Algorithm for Evaluating Non-Critical Infrastructure Workers with COVID-19 Symptoms or Exposures

**DAILY SCREENING AT HOME OR WORK**

Does the worker have new symptoms of COVID-19?*

- **YES**
  - Isolate from others. Stay home or send home.
- **NO**
  - Has the worker had close contact** with someone with COVID-19 in past 14 days?
    - **NO**
      - Continue normal activities
    - **YES**
      - Stay home or send home. Quarantine for 14 days after last exposure.*

Worker should contact a healthcare provider for a clinical evaluation and potential referral for testing

- In the past 14 days, no known close contact** and no exposure to area with ≥50 cases/100,000 population***
  - Consider alternate diagnoses. Testing* and exclusion for COVID-19 may be considered based on level of clinical suspicion and test availability.
- In the past 14 days, exposure to area with ≥50 cases/100,000 population***
  - Test* (and/or clinically evaluate) for COVID-19. Isolate at home.
- In the past 14 days, close contact** with person with known or suspected COVID-19.
  - Test* for COVID-19 right away if symptoms present or 5 days or more after likely exposure if no symptoms. Isolate/quarantine* at home.

**HEALTHCARE PROVIDER EVALUATION**

***≥50 cases per 100,000 population in the past 14 days. Click here for local information: vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/covid-19-in-virginia-locality/ **Close contact** means being within 6 feet of a person with COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period, or having direct exposure to respiratory secretions.

**RETURN TO WORK**

Path A: Once symptoms have improved and no fever for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medicine, worker may return to work.

- No symptoms but close contact** in past 14 days or exposure in past 14 days to area with ≥50 cases/100,000 population***
  - Home isolate for 10 days after symptom onset (or date of positive test). Quarantine close contacts.*
  - If symptoms develop, consider retesting. Home isolate for 10 days after symptom onset and quarantine close contacts for 14 days after last exposure.**
  - If no symptoms have developed, quarantine can end after Day 10 with no test or after Day 7 with a negative PCR or antigen test performed on or after Day 5. If you do not stay home for the first 14 days, continue monitoring for symptoms and follow all recommendations for the full 14-day period after the last exposure.

Path B: After 10-day isolation, if symptoms have improved and no fever for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medicine, worker may return to work after Day 10.

- No symptoms but close contact** in past 14 days.
  - Quarantine for 14 days after last exposure.*
    - (See Path C)

Path C: Quarantine for 14 days after last exposure.*

- Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever (≥100.4°F) or chills, fatigue (more tired than usual), headache, muscle aches, cough, nasal congestion or runny nose, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, abdominal pain, loss of appetite, diarrhea, nausea or vomiting.

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PCT testing is acceptable. If an Ag test is negative and clinical suspicion for COVID-19 is high, confirm with PCR, ideally within 2 days of the initial Ag test. If PCR testing is not available, clinical discretion may be used in whether to recommend the patient isolate.

During a suspected or confirmed workplace outbreak, more stringent return-to-work recommendations might apply.

It is safest to stay home for 14 days after last exposure (or contact). If you are not able to stay home for the full 14 days after exposure and do not have symptoms, quarantine can end after Day 10 with no test or after Day 7 with a negative PCR or antigen test performed on or after Day 5. If you do not stay home for the first 14 days, continue monitoring for symptoms and follow all recommendations for the full 14-day period after the last exposure.

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