

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

## DAILY SCREENING AT HOME OR WORK



**\*Symptoms of COVID-19** include fever ( $\geq 100.4^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) 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.

**\*\*Close contact** means being within 6 feet of a person with COVID-19 for 15 minutes or more or having direct exposure to respiratory secretions.

**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**

## HEALTHCARE PROVIDER EVALUATION



**\*\*\* $\geq 50$  cases per 100,000 population in the past 14 days.** Click here for local information: [vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/coronavirus/covid-19-in-virginia-locality/](https://vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/coronavirus/covid-19-in-virginia-locality/)

In the past 14 days, no known close contact\*\* and no exposure to area with  $\geq 50$  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  $\geq 50$  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 approximately 1 week after likely exposure if no symptoms present. Isolate/quarantine at home.

Negative for COVID-19

Positive for COVID-19

Negative for COVID-19 or Not tested

### Path A:

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

Home isolate for 10 days after symptom onset (or date of positive test). Quarantine close contacts.

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

## RETURN TO WORK<sup>^</sup>



**If not evaluated by a healthcare provider**

Symptoms but no close contact\*\* in past 14 days and no exposure in past 14 days to area with  $\geq 50$  cases/100,000 population.\*\*\*

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

Symptoms and either close contact\*\* in past 14 days or exposure in past 14 days to area with  $\geq 50$  cases/100,000 population.\*\*\*

Home isolate for 10 days after symptom onset. (See **Path B**) Quarantine close contacts.

No symptoms but close contact\*\* in past 14 days.

Quarantine for 14 days after last exposure. (See **Path C**)

### 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 on Day 11.

If symptoms develop, consider retesting. Home isolate for 10 days after symptom onset and quarantine close contacts for 14 days after last exposure. If symptoms have improved and no fever for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medicine, worker may return to work on Day 11.

If no symptoms develop, worker may return to work on Day 15.

<sup>♦</sup> **Testing** – PCR or antigen (Ag) 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.

<sup>^</sup> During a suspected or confirmed workplace **outbreak**, more stringent return-to-work recommendations might apply.