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.*

**HEALTHCARE PROVIDER EVALUATION**

In the past 14 days, no known close contact** and no exposure to area with ≥50 cases/100,000 population/week.***

Consider alternate diagnoses. Testing and exclusion for COVID-19 may be considered based on level of clinical suspicion and test availability.

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

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.

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

If no symptoms but close contact** in past 14 days.

If symptoms develop, consider retesting. Home isolate for 10 days after symptom onset and quarantine close contacts 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.

**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.

***≥50 cases per 100,000 population in the past 7 days. Click here for local information: vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/ metrics/school-metrics/

RETURN TO WORK^*

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 ≥50 cases/100,000 population/week.***

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 ≥50 cases/100,000 population/week.***

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)

Healthcare provider evaluation

In the past 14 days, exposure to area with ≥50 cases/100,000 population/week.***

Test* (and/or clinically evaluate) for COVID-19. Isolate at home.

Negative for COVID-19

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

Positive for COVID-19

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

Test* for COVID-19 right away. If negative test and no symptoms, retest again in 5 days or more after exposure. Isolate/quarantine* at home.

Negative for COVID-19 or Not tested

Path A:

Path B:

Path C:

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 exercised in whether to recommend the patient isolate. Those who have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past three months and recovered do not need to be tested again as long as they do not develop new symptoms. Most fully vaccinated people do not need to get tested as long as they do not have symptoms. More information is available here.

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

14-day quarantine recommended. If necessary, quarantine can end after Day 10 with no test or after Day 7 with a negative PCR or antigen test done on or after Day 5. Those who have had COVID-19 in the past three months or been fully vaccinated for COVID-19 and do not have symptoms are not required to quarantine. Monitor for symptoms for 14 days and always follow COVID-19 prevention recommendations.

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