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

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DAILY SCREENING AT HOME OR WORK

**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.

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

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

In the past 14 days, close contact** with person with known or suspected COVID-19.

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

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

Test* for COVID-19 right away if symptoms present or 5 days or more after likely exposure if no symptoms. Isolate/quarantine# at home.

Negative for COVID-19

Positive for COVID-19

Negative for COVID-19 or Not tested

Worker should contact a healthcare provider for a clinical evaluation and potential referral for testing.
RETURN TO WORK

If not evaluated by a healthcare provider

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.

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.***

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

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

Quarantine for 14 days after symptom onset. (See Path B) Quarantine close contacts.#

If symptoms develop, worker may return to work after Day 10.

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 after Day 10.

If no symptoms develop, consider retesting.

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. 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.

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 or been fully vaccinated for COVID-19 in the past 3 months who 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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