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

DAILY SCREENING AT HOME OR WORK

1. Has the worker had close contact** with someone with COVID-19 in past 14 days?
   - **YES**
     - Isolate from others. Stay home or send home.
   - **NO**
     - Does the worker have new symptoms of COVID-19?*
       - **YES**
         - 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.*
       - **NO**
         - Continue normal activities

*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.
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.***

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

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

***≥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/
**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.

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 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.***  
  - 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.***  
  - 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 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.#

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 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, worker may return to work after Day 14. If unable to stay home for 14 days and 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.#

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*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.

^ 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 recommended 14 days, continue monitoring for symptoms and follow all recommendations for the full 14-day period after the last exposure.