

COVID-19 TESTING INFORMATION FOR EMPLOYERS

Who can be tested?

1. Employees who are exhibiting symptoms of COVID including¹
 - a. Cough
 - b. Fever
 - c. Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - d. Chills
 - e. Muscle pain
 - f. Sore throat
 - g. New loss of taste or smell
2. An employee who has been in **close contact** with a COVID positive person. Close contact is defined as:
 - a. Household member
 - b. Intimate partner
 - c. Individual providing care to an infected person without recommended infection control measures (cloth face coverings, self-isolation)
 - d. Individuals who have been less than 6ft from an infected person for longer than 15 minutes².

Who does NOT need to be tested?

An employee without symptoms who has not been in contact with a COVID positive person.

My employee has been tested for COVID-19, when can they return to work?

Due to the possibility of a false negative result (negative test result in an infected person), return to work recommendations are made regardless of whether a person has a positive or negative test result.

- If the person is exhibiting symptoms, they need to be self-isolated until **all** of the following conditions have been met³:
 - No fever for three days without fever-reducing medicines
 - Improvement of cough and shortness of breath
 - It has been at least ten days since symptoms first began
- If the person was not exhibiting symptoms, but was tested because of an exposure they can return to work **14 days after their last known exposure** or **10 days after a positive test** as long as they continue to not exhibit symptoms.

If my employee has tested positive, do they need a negative test to return to work?

No. As long as all of the conditions detailed above have been met, they are safe to return to work⁴.

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

² <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/public-health-recommendations.html>

³ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html>

⁴ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/disposition-in-home-patients.html>