



## **Employee Guidance & Frequently asked Questions**

- 1. What if an employee has a fever without shortness of breath or cough?**
  - If an employee has a fever, stay home. The employee may report to work after fever free without meds (acetaminophen or ibuprofen) for 24 hours.
  
- 2. What if an employee has a fever with shortness of breath and/or cough?**
  - If an employee develops a fever with cough and/or shortness of breath, they should contact their health care provider for guidance.
    - If COVID-19 is suspected, then the employee should not report to work. For return to work, see question 7.
    - Any other cause then the employee may report to work after fever free without meds (acetaminophen or ibuprofen) for 24 hours.
  
- 3. How will I know if I transported a patient who tests positive for COVID-19?**
  - Our designated infection control officer will be notified of positive COVID-19 tests. The EMS division will notify employees of test results and aid in determining if exposure has occurred.
  
- 4. If I wore the appropriate PPE during the call where the patient tests positive or already is known to be positive, have I been exposed to the virus?**
  - No. Appropriate PPE (N95, eye protection, and gloves. Gown if aerosol generation procedures such as nebulizers, intubations, IGel placement, airway suctioning) prevents exposure.
    - Employee should complete and submit incidental for documentation purposes.
  
- 5. If I was not wearing the appropriate PPE during the call where the patient tests positive or already is known to be positive, have I been exposed to the virus?**
  - Yes. The EMS division will provide further guidance to the employee.
    - Employee should complete exposure paperwork.

**6. If I care for a patient who has COVID-19, can I take the virus home to my family?**

- No. Please continue to wear PPE as directed. Continue shower and change into clean uniform after at risk calls. Do not wear uniform home.

**7. If employee has tested positive for COVID-19, can they go to work?**

- No. See question 3.

**8. When can an employee who tested positive go back to work?**

- Confirmed or suspected COVID-19 patients (those who have symptoms) will remain in quarantine until the following criteria are met:
  - At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed *since recovery*, which is defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and** improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); **and**,
  - At least 7 days have passed *since symptoms first appeared*.

**OR** if test kits are available:

- Resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and**
- Improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath), **and**
- Negative results of an FDA Emergency Use Authorized molecular assay for COVID-19 from at least two consecutive nasopharyngeal swab specimens collected  $\geq 24$  hours apart (total of two negative specimens).

**9. If employee has a household contact (spouse, children, etc.) who has been tested for COVID-19, but no results are back, can they work?**

- If household contact has symptoms (fever, cough, or SOB), then employee should not report to work.
- If household contact has no symptoms, then employee can report to work.

**10. If employee has a household contact with exposure risk factors (travel outside country past 14 days or exposure to confirmed COVID-19) and are symptomatic (fever, cough, SOB), can they work?**

- No. If the household contact is symptomatic, the employee should not report to work. Encourage household contact to discuss with healthcare provider for guidance and testing.

**11. If employee has a household contact with exposure risk factors (travel outside country past 14 days or exposure to confirmed COVID-19) and are asymptomatic, can they work?**

- Yes. If household contact is asymptomatic, the employee may report to work.

**12. If employee has household contact with no exposure risk factors (travel outside country past 14 days or exposure to confirmed COVID-19) but they have symptoms, can the employee come to work?**

- Maybe
  - If fever with shortness of breath and/or cough, then the employee should not report to work. Recommend the household contact with illness contact a medical provider to help determine the cause of their illness to help guide the employee
    - If COVID-19 is suspected, then the employee should not report to work.
    - Any other cause then the employee may report to work.
  - If fever with no cough or SOB, the employee may report to work. Still recommend the household contact with illness contact a medical provider to help determine the cause of their illness to help guide the employee.
    - If COVID-19 is suspected, then the employee should not report to work.
    - Any other cause then the employee may report to work.

### **13. Virginia Department of Health (VDH) Updated Guidance on Testing for COVID-19:**

- Healthcare workers and first responders with symptoms of COVID-19.
- Older Americans who have symptoms of COVID-19, especially those living in congregate settings.
- Potential clusters of unknown respiratory illness where influenza has been ruled out, with priority for healthcare facility outbreaks.
- Persons hospitalized AND who tested negative for influenza. Priority will be given to ICU admissions or people on ventilators, where circumstances require a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis for compassionate use treatment with antivirals.