

COVID-19 Return to Work Guidance for Health Care Professionals

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Discussion Topics

- What is an exposure?
- Return to work categories based on severity of illness
- Quarantine period based on severity of illness
- Travel quarantine

Covid-19 exposure definition

- Prolonged (“**prolonged**” refers to a cumulative time period of 10 or more minutes during a 24-hour period) close (within 6 feet) contact with a patient, visitor or HCP with confirmed COVID-19
- In addition, HCP was not wearing a respirator or face mask **or** HCP was not wearing protective eyewear if the person with COVID-19 was not wearing a facemask
- HCP not wearing all recommended PPE during an aerosol generating procedure with a patient with confirmed COVID-19
- HCP was deemed to have had an exposure (including proximate contact) by a local health department.

Contact Tracer: Prolonged (10 minutes or more), proximate contact (within 6 feet) with a COVID-19 positive person in the community **or** was deemed to have had an exposure (including proximate contact) by a local health department.

Categories of exposure

- Asymptomatic HCP with exposure to a COVID-19 positive person
- COVID Positive HCP and not immunocompromised
- COVID Positive HCP and immunocompromised
- HCP working in special settings Nursing homes, LTC, Community Cares
- HCP returning from travel
- Staffing Shortages

Return to Work Criteria Summary

- **Asymptomatic healthcare personnel (HCP)** with an exposure to a known case with COVID-19 should be excluded from work for 10 days but continue daily symptom monitoring through day 14.
- **COVID-19 positive HCP who are not immunocompromised** should maintain isolation for at least 10 days with the last 24 hours being fever-free off anti-pyretics and symptoms resolved or improving before returning to work.
- **COVID-19 positive HCP who are immunocompromised** or have severe-to-critical illness should consider consultation with an infectious disease physician prior to returning to work (which should be after at least 20 days with the last 24 hours being fever-free off anti-pyretics and symptoms resolved or improving).

Return to Work Criteria Summary

- **HCP working in special settings (e.g. nursing homes, long term care, etc.)** should quarantine for 10 days after exposure to a known case with COVID-19 but may not return to work until after 14 days. If the HCP tests positive for COVID-19, they must isolate for 14 days with the last 24 hours being fever-free off anti-pyretics and symptoms resolved or improving before returning to work.

Return to Work Criteria Summary

- **HCP returning to NYS from a non-contiguous state or from a CDC Level 2 or 3 Travel Health Notice country may return to work but must seek diagnostic testing for COVID-19 within 24 hours and on day 4 after arriving and maintain quarantine while not at work until they receive a negative result on their COVID-19 tests.**

Return to Work Criteria Summary

- **If current or imminent staffing shortage**, an HCP Work Waiver must be completed by the CEO and sent to the Health Commissioner for approval. See memo regarding HCP Return to Work Waiver. If approval has been obtained, the HCP may return to work if they have a negative COVID-19 test, then must be tested for COVID-19 every 2 days for 10 days.
 - The first test should be done on Day 4 after exposure.
 - The HCP Work Waiver only impacts HCPs who have been exposed to COVID-19 and does not impact the current rules for travel.

Thank You!