COVID-19: PHYSICIAN SCREENING, EXPOSURE, AND RETURN TO WORK GUIDELINES

*In era of COVID-19, exposure may be anywhere (work, community, home). Please remain vigilant and monitor for new symptoms of acute respiratory infection and follow guidelines below.*

ACUTE RESPIRATORY INFECTION
Physicians who develop symptoms of acute respiratory infection (such as fever†, new cough, new SOB, body aches, chills, sore throat, etc.) should notify supervisor and stay home from work until medically cleared to return. Notify Dr. Kory (call VCMC operator and page or Tiger Text). Anyone who is an employee should call Human Resources, who will refer to Employee Health as indicated.

Follow-up steps:
• If possible, physician should seek testing for COVID-19 at AFMC drive-by testing site. Specimens collected will be labeled “Send to Public Health; PUI Exempt”.
• If physician does not need hospitalization, they should be sent home and put on home quarantine until test results are obtained.
• If patient meets screening criteria and needs hospitalization, the ER should be called at 805-652-6168 (VCMC) or 805-933-8663 (SPH) ahead of time so that they can arrange appropriate infection prevention.
• If physician tests positive, notify Dr. Kory immediately and
• Remain quarantined while seeking appropriate medical care and follow RETURNING TO WORK guidance below.
• If physician tests negative for COVID-19 and they are still ill, they should remain at home until they have been afebrile for 24 hours. When returning to work, providers should wear a facemask at all times while in the healthcare facility until symptom resolution.

HIGH OR MEDIUM RISK EXPOSURE TO KNOWN CASE OF COVID-19
Asymptomatic physicians who have medium-to-high risk exposure to known case of COVID-19 should immediately notify Dr. Kory (call VCMC operator and page or via Tiger Text). They can return to work but should begin to actively self-monitor at least twice daily and at time of patient care for presence of fever† or others symptoms of acute respiratory infection (such as new cough, new SOB, body aches, chills, sore throat, etc.).

Conditions of working include:
• Daily check-in with Dr. Kory regarding absence or development of symptoms at beginning of shift.
• Adherence to cough etiquette and hand hygiene.
• Wear a facemask at all times while in the healthcare facility until the end of the 14-day monitoring period from date of exposure.
• Should physician develop symptoms of acute respiratory infection, immediately isolate and follow guidance in section on ACUTE RESPIRATORY INFECTION.

† For healthcare worker exposure and clearance, fever defined as measured temperature >100.0°F or subjective fever.
**HIGH RISK TRAVEL EXPOSURE**
Asymptomatic physicians who are returning from other geographic areas with high prevalence of COVID-19 should immediately notify Dr. Kory (call VCMC operator and page or Tiger Text). They can return to work but should begin to actively self-monitor at least twice daily and at time of patient care for presence of fever† or others symptoms of acute respiratory infection (such as new cough, new SOB, body aches, chills, sore throat, etc.).

Conditions of working include:
- Daily check-in with Dr. Kory regarding absence or development of symptoms at beginning of shift.
- Adherence to cough etiquette and hand hygiene.
- Wear a facemask at all times while in the healthcare facility until the end of the 14-day monitoring period from date of last travel exposure.
- Should physician develop symptoms of acute respiratory infection, *immediately isolate* and follow guidance in section on ACUTE RESPIRATORY INFECTION.

**RETURNING TO WORK AFTER COVID-19+**
Physicians *who test positive for COVID-19* should immediately notify Dr. Kory (call VCMC operator and page or Tiger Text). Physicians with confirmed COVID-19 may return to work in the healthcare setting according to one of the two following strategies:

- **Test-based strategy.** Exclude from work until
  - Resolution of fever† without use of anti-pyretic medications *and*
  - Improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g. cough, SOB) *and*
  - Negative results of a molecular assay for COVID-19 from at least two consecutive tests collected ≥24 hours apart.
  - Dr. Kory must be notified.
  - Adherence to respiratory hygiene, hand hygiene, and cough etiquette.
  - Wear a facemask at all times while in the healthcare facility until all symptoms are completely resolved or until 14 days after illness onset, whichever is longer.

- **Non-test-based strategy.** Exclude from work until
  - At least 3 days (72 hrs) have passed since recovery defined as resolution of fever† without use of anti-pyretic medications *and*
  - Improvement in illness signs and symptoms (e.g. cough, SOB) *and*
  - At least 7 days have passed *since symptoms first appeared.*
  - Dr. Kory must be notified.
  - Adherence to respiratory hygiene, hand hygiene, and cough etiquette.
  - Wear a facemask at all times while in the healthcare facility until all symptoms are completely resolved or until 14 days after illness onset, whichever is longer.

*Dr. Kory or designee will be responsible for final clearance for all physicians to return to work.*

†For healthcare worker exposure and clearance, fever defined as measured temperature >100.0°F or subjective fever.