COVID-19: VCHCA STAFF 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.*

**SYMPTOMATIC EMPLOYEES**
Staff who develop symptoms of acute respiratory infection (such as fever†, new cough, new SOB, body aches, chills, sore throat, headache, loss of sense of taste/smell, diarrhea, etc.) should notify their supervisor. Additionally, county employees call the Employee Hotline at (805) 981-5166, physicians/providers contact Dr. Kory (via Tiger Text or VCMC page operator), and non-physician employees at affiliated clinics call the Outpatient Infection Prevention Team (OIP) at (805) 515-6303. Staff member should stay home from work until medically cleared to return. Again, doctors must notify Dr. Kory (call VCMC operator and page or Tiger Text).

Follow-up steps:
- If referred for testing, all county employees should seek testing for COVID-19 at AFMC drive-through testing site. Call the AFMC Urgent Care at (805) 652-6500 to notify that you will be coming. Specimens collected will be labeled “Send to Public Health; PUI Exempt”.
- If staff member does not need hospitalization, they should be sent home and put on home quarantine until test results are obtained.
- If patient meets screening criteria for testing 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.
- The test results will be communicated by Dr. Kory, Employee Health, Outpatient Infection Prevention team and/or to ordering physician at AFMC urgent care, who will notify staff member.
- If staff tests positive, they are to remain quarantined while seeking appropriate medical care and follow RETURN TO WORK guidance below.
- If staff 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.

**EXPOSURE TO KNOWN CASE OF COVID-19**
Asymptomatic staff who have exposure to known case of COVID-19 should immediately notify either EHS/Dr. Kory/their supervisor. They can return to work but will begin to actively self-monitor temperature at least twice daily for presence of fever > 100.0 or other 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 for physicians or Manager/Supervisor for other staff regarding absence or development of fever or symptoms at beginning of shift.
• Document daily temperature on Supervisor log for 14 days.
• Adherence to cough etiquette and hand hygiene.
• Wear a facemask at all times while in the healthcare facility at least until the end of the 14-day monitoring period from date of exposure. Recommendations on the use of facemasks may change as the pandemic progresses, so check with Manager/Supervisor for most current information (i.e. all workers wear masks for all shifts, etc.)
• Should staff develop symptoms of acute respiratory infection or fever, body aches, chills, sore throat, headache, loss of sense of taste/smell, diarrhea immediately isolate and follow guidance in section on SYMPTOMATIC EMPLOYEE.

RETURNING TO WORK GUIDELINES FOR HCW WITH CONFIRMED OR SUSPECTED COVID-19+

If symptomatic with suspected or confirmed COVID-19
Exclude from work until:
  o At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and,
  o At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared
    • As an example, if fever resolves on day 2 of symptoms, one would return to work on day 10 from onset of symptoms. If fever resolves on day 9 of symptoms, one would return on day 9 + 3 = day 12 from onset of symptoms.
  • OR
    o Resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and
    o Improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath), and
    o Negative results of SARS-CoV-2 RNA from at least two consecutive nasopharyngeal swab specimens collected ≥24 hours apart (total of two negative specimens)

If asymptomatic with confirmed COVID-19
Exclude from work until:
  o 10 days have passed since the date of their first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test assuming they have not subsequently developed symptoms since their positive test. If they develop symptoms, then refer above.
  • OR
    o Negative results of SARS-CoV-2 RNA from at least two consecutive nasopharyngeal swab specimens collected ≥24 hours apart (total of two negative specimens)

Determination of clearance to return to work will be made by a combination of Inpatient or Outpatient Infection Control, Manager/Supervisor, and/or Employee Health.