

**Mission:**

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



**Ron DeSantis**  
Governor

**Scott A. Rivkees, MD**  
State Surgeon General

**Vision:** To be the **Healthiest State** in the Nation

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## Return to Work Criteria for Essential Personnel with Confirmed or Suspected COVID-19 April 3, 2020

This is a summary of guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

**Use one of the below strategies to determine when essential personnel may return to work**

1. Test-based strategy. Exclude from work until:
  - 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).
2. Non-test-based strategy. Exclude from work until:
  - 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**,
  - At least 7 days *since symptoms first appeared*

**Individuals with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 who have not had any symptoms** may discontinue home isolation when at least 7 days have passed since the date of their first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test and have had no symptoms.

If the individuals were never tested for COVID-19, but have an alternate diagnosis (e.g., tested positive for influenza), criteria for return to work should be based on that diagnosis.

### **Additional Requirements for Health Care Providers including Paramedics and Emergency Medical Technicians After Returning to Work.**

- 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.
- Restrict from contact with immunocompromised patients (e.g., transplant, hematology-oncology) until 14 days after illness onset.
- Adhere to hand and respiratory hygiene in [CDC's interim infection control guidance](#) (e.g., cover nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing, dispose of tissues in waste receptacles).
- Self-monitor for symptoms and seek re-evaluation from occupational health if respiratory symptoms recur or worsen.

