



COVID-19 Preparedness & Response

Frequently Asked Questions for NCHC Employees

July 13, 2020

Covid-19 Exposure and Return to Work

Q: I live with someone who is symptomatic and being tested for Covid-19 but does not have results yet. Can I report to work if I do not have symptoms?

A: No. Contact NCHC Employee Health at **715.848.4396** and your manager. Employee Health will advise you to stay off work, or work from home if possible, until test results are back for the person you live with.

Q: I live with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19. Can I report to work?

A: No. Contact NCHC Employee Health at **715.848.4396** and your manager. Covid-19 testing will be advised and you will remain off work until the person you live with is released from quarantine. If you do not get tested, you must remain off work for 14 days after your last exposure to this person and be asymptomatic before returning to work.

Q: I was in contact with someone who tested positive for Covid-19, but I do not live with them. Can I report to work?

A: The answer depends on your unique interaction and exposure to the individual that tested positive. Contact NCHC Employee Health at **715.848.4396** and your manager. The details of your situation will be considered and Employee Health will determine if you should stay home from work. Factors considered (but not limited to) are: prolonged exposure greater than 15 minutes, use of PPE by you and positive person, were you within 6 feet of the person, were you sharing eating/drinking utensils, did they cough/sneeze within close proximity of you.

Q: I recently visited a restaurant/business that reported a positive Covid-19 case. Can I report to work?

A: The answer depends on your unique interaction and exposure at that restaurant/business and the individual(s) that tested positive. Contact NCHC Employee Health at **715.848.4396** and your manager. The details of your situation will be considered and Employee Health will determine if you should stay home from work.

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Q: I was in contact with someone, who was in contact with someone, who tested positive or is getting tested for Covid-19. Can I report to work?

A: The answer depends on your unique interaction and exposure to the individual that was in contact with someone who tested positive and their exposure. Contact NCHC Employee Health at **715.848.4396** and your manager. The details of your situation will be considered and Employee Health will determine if you should stay home from work.

Q: What can I do to minimize my risk of exposure to Covid-19 while at work and in the community?

A: The recommendations from the CDC for community interaction and the precautions required by employees at NCHC greatly minimize the risk of exposure and transmission –

1. Wear a mask in public and while at work
2. Avoid large gatherings and practice social distancing
2. Screening – both at work and self-screening at home
3. Good Hand Hygiene – wash your hands thoroughly and frequently
4. Work Precautions – Zones, PPE, Screening & Stay home when ill

Q: I cared for a patient that later tested positive for Covid-19. Do I need to stay home?

A: Contact in a healthcare setting with appropriate PPE is generally low risk. Contact Employee Health and discuss your situation and concerns. If you are not experiencing any symptoms, its likely you may continue to work. Continue to follow all PPE, screening and self-monitoring procedures.

Q: I tested positive for Covid-19, are there return to work practices or restrictions for me?

A: Yes. Employee Health will provide you and your manager with the date you can return to work.

You must follow the following guidelines when you return to work:

- Wear a face mask at all times while in the facility and in public until all symptoms are completely resolved or at baseline.
- Be restricted from contact with severely immunocompromised patients until 14 days after illness onset.
- Adhere to hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene, and cough etiquette.
- Self-monitor for symptoms, and see re-evaluation from Employee Health if respiratory symptoms recur or worsen.



North Central Health Care

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Q: I tested negative for Covid-19 but I am displaying symptoms, are there return to work practices or restrictions for me?

A: Yes. Employee Health will provide you and your manager with the date you can return to work.

You must follow the following guidelines when you return to work:

- Wear a face mask at all times while in the facility and in public until all symptoms are completely resolved or at baseline.
- Be restricted from contact with severely immunocompromised patients until 14 days after illness onset.
- Adhere to hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene, and cough etiquette.
- Self-monitor for symptoms, and see re-evaluation from Employee Health if respiratory symptoms recur or worsen.