

COVID-19: RETURN TO WORK CHANGES IN CDC GUIDELINES

To ensure continuity of operations of essential functions, the CDC advises that critical infrastructure workers may be permitted to continue work following potential exposure to COVID-19, provided they remain asymptomatic, and additional precautions are implemented to protect them and the community.

Who does this interim guidance apply to?

Critical infrastructure workers, including personnel in 16 different sectors of work, like:

- Federal, state & law enforcement
- 911 call center employees
- Fusion Center employees
- Hazardous material responders from government and the private sector
- Janitorial staff and other custodial staff
- Workers – including contracted vendors – in food and agriculture, critical manufacturing, healthcare, informational technology, transportation, energy and government facilities.

What classifies as a potential exposure?

Being a household contact or having close contact within 6 feet of an individual with confirmed or suspected COVID-19. The timeframe for having contact with an individual includes the period of time 48 hours before the individual became symptomatic.

What practices should employers adhere to prior to and during employees' work shifts?

Pre-Screen: Employers should measure the employee's temperature and assess symptoms prior to them starting work. Ideally, temperature checks should happen before the individual enters the facility.

Regular Monitoring: As long as the employee doesn't have a temperature or symptoms, they should self-monitor under the supervision of their employer's occupational health program.

Wear a Mask: The employee should wear a face mask at all times while in the workplace for 14 days after last exposure. Employers can issue facemasks or can

approve employees' supplied cloth face coverings in the event of shortages.

Social Distance: The employee should maintain 6 feet and practice social distancing as work duties permit in the workplace

Disinfect and Clean Work Spaces: Clean and disinfect all areas such as offices, bathrooms, common areas, shared electronic equipment routinely.

Additional Considerations:

- Employees should not share headsets or other objects that are near the mouth or nose.
- Employers should increase the frequency of cleaning commonly touched surfaces.
- Employees and employers should consider pilot testing the use of face masks to ensure they do not interfere with work assignments.
- Employers should work with facility maintenance staff to increase air exchanges in the room.
- Employees should physically distance when they take breaks together. Stagger breaks and don't congregate in the break room, and don't share food or utensils.

What if the employee becomes sick?

The employee should be sent home immediately. Surfaces in their workplace should be cleaned and disinfected. Information on persons who had contact with the ill employee during the time the employee had symptoms and two days prior to symptoms should be compiled. Others at the facility with close contact within 6 feet of the employee during this time would be considered exposed.

Links to Information & Resources

Printable Flyers for Workplaces

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/Essential-Critical-Workers_Dos-and-Donts.pdf

More Information for First Responders and Law Enforcement

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/first-responders.html>

More Information for Businesses and Employers

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/businesses-employers.html>

More Information for Correctional and Detention Facilities

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/correction-detention/index.html>

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