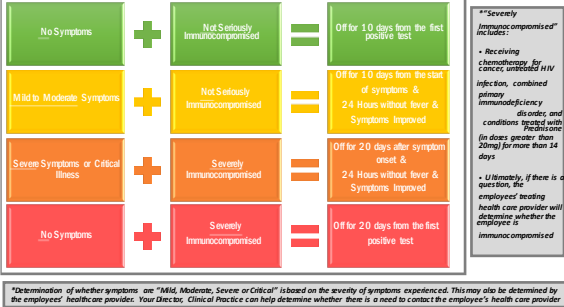


Frequently Asked Questions/Answers	Additional Information
<p>What is true exposure to COVID-19?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Living in the same household as a person under investigation for or laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 b. Caring for a sick person under investigation for or laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 c. Being in direct contact with secretions from a sick person under investigation for or laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 (e.g., being coughed/sneezed on, kissed, sharing utensils, etc). d. Someone who was within 6 feet or less of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period* starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to test specimen collection) until the time the person is isolated. 	<p>If the infected person or the one in close contact with them was wearing a mask, this is considered low risk.</p>
<p>Why do some people continue to test positive after having COVID-19 for more than 14 days?</p> <p>When the virus sheds, it embeds in the mucous membranes. The virus “dies” in the 14 days, but pieces of its cellular make up (RNA) may be left behind. Think of a bomb exploding. You have shrapnel debris, but it is no longer explosive once detonated.</p> <p>The COVID swab test cannot tell active from inactive pieces of the RNA of the virus, only that the RNA is present. This is why our return-to-work guidance was changed recently to be in line with the CDC.</p>	<p>How do we protect ourselves since we do not know if the virus is active or inactive?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Everyone wears a face covering at all times while at work per policy. b. We assess/screen the clients/patients/referrals for signs and symptoms and possible exposure (in all lines of business). c. All employees self-screen daily for any signs or symptoms of infection.
<p>What do I do if an employee refuses to wear a mask or says they cannot wear one?</p> <p>Contact your HR Specialist</p>	
<p>What do I do if an employee refuses to work with COVID positive patients/clients?</p> <p>Ask/determine the reason:</p> <p>Is it because they are immunocompromised or at high risk for complications if they were to become infected? Then ask for documentation from their MD and adjust their assignments as possible.</p> <p>Is it because they “just refuse to?” Then contact your HR Specialist</p>	

Question/Answer	Additional Information
<p>We need to have employees or patient/clients tested for COVID-19, but cannot find a site or there are shortages in test availability?</p> <p>Then we are to utilize the time- and symptom-based criteria for COVID-19. Refer to the Return to Work criteria and Tools to determine isolation/time off for employees and the Patient/Client Tests Positive Guidance for details.</p> <p>Employees/clients/patients <u>do not need</u> 2 negative tests to return to work or to be released from isolation or quarantine.</p>	
<p>What do I do if an employee was exposed, but I still need them to work due to staffing needs?</p> <p>According to the CDC, an exposed healthcare employee (HCP) can continue to work as long as they are not symptomatic and wear PPE at all times (see mitigating staffing article from CDC).</p> <p>We require that the exposed employee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Wear a surgical mask at all times while at work Does not provide care for high-risk patients/clients for 14 days from the exposure date Continues to self-screen daily for signs and symptoms Leave work immediately if signs or symptoms develop 	<p>Some States/Health Departments/Regulatory Entities have specific and even stricter standards regarding this. Please be sure to know your local and State requirements.</p> <p>As of 12/3/20, the CDC recommends 2 additional options for how long quarantine should last. <u>For people without signs and symptoms, quarantine can end on DAY 10.</u></p> <p><u>After stopping quarantine, employees should:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Watch for symptoms until 14 days after exposure. If they have symptoms, immediately self-isolate and contact their local public health authority or healthcare provider. •Wear a mask, stay at least 6 feet from others, wash their hands, avoid crowds, and take other steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19.