

**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 July 20, 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/hcp/return-to-work.html>

### Symptom-based strategy for determining when HCP can return to work.

HCP with *mild to moderate illness* who are not severely immunocompromised:

- At least 10 days have passed *since symptoms first appeared* **and**
- At least 24 hours have passed *since last fever* without the use of fever-reducing medications **and**
- Symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) have improved

**Note:** HCP who are **not severely immunocompromised** and were **asymptomatic** throughout their infection may return to work when at least 10 days have passed since the date of their first positive viral diagnostic test.

HCP with *severe to critical illness* or who are severely immunocompromised<sup>1</sup>:

- At least 20 days have passed *since symptoms first appeared* **and**
- At least 24 hours have passed *since last fever* without the use of fever-reducing medications **and**
- Symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) have improved

**Note:** HCP who are **severely immunocompromised** but who were **asymptomatic** throughout their infection may return to work when at least 20 days have passed since the date of their first positive viral diagnostic test.

**A test-based strategy is no longer recommended because in the majority of cases, it results in excluding from work cases who continue to shed detectable SARS-CoV-2 RNA but are no longer infectious.**

**In an outbreak setting (e.g. long-term care facility, correctional facility), healthcare personnel with symptoms of COVID-19, who either test negative or are not tested, are to be managed as a case.** They are to be excluded until symptom-based strategy exclusion criteria are met.

If the individuals had COVID-19 ruled out and 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 for source control at all times while in the healthcare facility until all symptoms are completely resolved or at baseline. A facemask instead of a cloth face covering should be used by these HCP for source control during this time period while in the facility. After this time period, these HCP should revert to their facility policy regarding universal source control during the pandemic.
  - A facemask for source control does not replace the need to wear an N95 or higher-level respirator (or other recommended PPE) when indicated, including when caring for patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
  - Of note, N95 or other respirators with an exhaust valve might not provide source control.
- Self-monitor for symptoms, and seek re-evaluation from occupational health if symptoms recur or worsen.