WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN EMPLOYEES ARE QUARANTINED OR ISOLATED

Notification of confirmed cases: The Riverside County Department of Public Health will notify confirmed cases directly, discuss isolation requirements, identify contacts who may have been exposed and answer questions.

Will the employer be notified of a positive test result? Employers are contacted in an effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19 at their facility. When contacted, the employer is not given the positive employee's name; however, they are informed that an employee tested positive and a risk assessment process is initiated by Public Health staff. Employers should have their own policies and protocols in place so that employees can confidentially report their positive test result directly to the employer. The County will provide you with an alert but cannot disclose the patient's information for confidentiality reasons. Employers will be provided with tips and resources to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in their facility.

As part of the contact tracing process, cases are asked about businesses that they may have visited. If a business is identified during that process, Public Health will contact the business to discuss prevention measures being utilized to stop transmission. Businesses should assume that positive individuals are visiting their facilities (status may or may not be known) and take all necessary precautions.

What if my employee has a negative test result, can they work? If an individual has come into contact with a confirmed positive case and tested negative, the individual is still required to complete their 14 day quarantine.

When can my employee return to work? (Please note that there may be other factors that may extend an employee's return based on recommendations from Public Health)

> **CONFIRMED COVID CASES**
> For a confirmed positive case, the employee must isolate. You can expect to have your employee return to work under the following conditions:
>
> *If Symptomatic -*
> - At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery defined as resolution of fever without the user fever-reducing medication and improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); **and,**
> - At least 10 days have passed since last positive test

If asymptomatic (symptom free) -
- 10 days have passed since the date of their first positive COVID 19 diagnostic test assuming they have not subsequently developed symptoms since their positive test.
- If they develop symptoms, then the protocol for symptomatic individuals should be followed.

CONFIRMED CONTACT TO A POSITIVE COVID PATIENT
For a contact to a confirmed positive case, the employee is expected to quarantine. You can expect to have your employee return to work when the individual meets the following criteria:

*They are exposed, but **asymptomatic** -*
- 14 day quarantine.
    o Twice-daily temperature check.
    o Monitor for respiratory symptoms.
- If ANY symptoms develop, refer for testing (below).
- Even if tested and tests negative, 14 day quarantine still required.

*They are exposed, but **symptomatic** -*
- Exclude from work, 14 day quarantine. Instruct in home isolation.
    o Twice-daily temperature check.
    o Monitor for respiratory symptoms.
- Refer for testing.
    o While test is pending continue home isolation.
    o If test is negative and no longer symptomatic:
        ▪ If source patient ruled out, discontinue isolation and clear for work.
        ▪ If source patient was positive, complete 14 day quarantine. May return to work when completely asymptomatic and afebrile for 72 hours and 14 day quarantine is completed.
    o If test is negative, but still symptomatic, an individualized assessment of other potential diagnosis (e.g., flu) is required for whether repeat testing may be indicated.

Is retesting necessary?
Riverside County Public Health has adopted a modified non-test-based criteria for clearance of COVID-19 positive patients. Retesting for clearance is not generally recommended.

What if the employer wants their employees tested? Individuals needing to be tested can be referred to their primary care provider or other public testing sites. A list of public testing sites is available at www.rivcoph.org/coronavirus/testing .