

FAQ for SHS Employees with Symptoms of Acute Respiratory Infection During a COVID-19 Epidemic

I am sick with an acute respiratory infection. What should I do?

- You should remain at home. You cannot work while ill with an acute respiratory infection.
- Call your manager and Employee Health to let them know.
- If you need medical care, you should contact your primary care provider or consider an e-visit. If you are advised to come in, please call first.

Can I get tested for COVID-19?

- Employees who call out sick with an acute respiratory infection, including the following symptoms (fever, new cough, new shortness of breath), may contact their primary care provider or consider an e-visit to discuss testing.
- Please note, there is NO role for testing asymptomatic employees at this time outside of screening for procedures.

Is testing for COVID-19 mandatory?

- No. However, Employee Health may ask you to get tested for epidemiologic reasons. If such request is made, arrangements will be made for testing. You can request an e-visit through MyChart as well.

Is testing confidential?

- If you choose to get tested, we ask that you let Employee Health know the results.
- We only inform your manager of a positive test if you worked while you were ill. We do this in order to contact exposed co-workers and patients who may need to be tested.

I was tested for COVID-19 and am waiting for my results. Can I return to work?

- If you have undergone testing, you are presumed positive until proven otherwise. You should remain at home during the waiting period.

I tested positive for COVID-19. When can I return to work?

- If you have tested positive for COVID-19, work exclusion is required until at least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery (defined as no cough or fever without the use of fever-reducing medications) and at least 7 days from symptom onset.

I tested positive for COVID-19 and have met all the conditions to return to work, why MUST I wear a mask for 14 days from symptom onset?

- There is some evidence that people who clinically recover from COVID-19 may continue to harbor virus in respiratory secretions. Currently, experts feel this is not clinically significant. In an abundance of precaution, employees are asked to wear a mask in an effort to contain your respiratory droplet.

I tested negative for COVID-19. When can I return to work?

If you are suspected of having a viral respiratory illness, you may return to work when you have been symptom-free for 72 hours and at least 7 days from symptom onset.

I recently had a fever, cough, or shortness of breath consistent with a viral infection, but I did NOT get tested for COVID-19. When can I return to work?

- In the context of widespread community transmission of COVID-19, all presumed viral respiratory illnesses will be treated as presumed or suspected COVID-19.