

Heath Care Worker Return to Work Assessment FAQ

1. An individual in my household is a confirmed COVID-19 Case. Is it safe for me to come in to work?

Exposure Scenario	Recommendation
Your household member is a confirmed COVID-19 case and you are fully immunized, asymptomatic, NOT the primary caregiver and the case CAN isolate away from you.	Yes – safe to work. Remain at work and self-monitor for symptoms. You must remain diligent with completing the Health Care Workforce (HCW) screening and current Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) guidelines.
For example: Your teenage child or partner can isolate in the home away from you and you are able to limit your interaction with the case (i.e. only delivering food to outside the room).	
Your household member is a confirmed COVID-19 case and you ARE the primary caregiver.	No - exclude from work. Regardless of immunization status - You are excluded from work for 14 days following the end of the case's isolation.
For example: your child, partner or elderly parent is COVID positive and you are unable to isolate from that individual, you sleep in the same bed or you are responsible for providing direct care like feeding and bathing.	
Your household member is a confirmed COVID-19 case and you are NOT fully immunized.	No - exclude from work. Regardless if you are the primary caregiver or not or the case can isolate away from you or not, you are considered a close contact You are excluded from work for 14 days following the end of the case's isolation.

2. An individual in my household has been deemed a close contact by Public Health, Occupational Health or Employee Health. Is it safe for me to come in to work?

Exposure Scenario	Recommendation
Your household member has been deemed a close contact and is asymptomatic (not experiencing any symptoms).	Yes – safe to work. You are a contact to a contact. Remain at work and self-monitor for symptoms. You must remain diligent with completing the HCW screening and current PPE guidelines.
Your household member has been deemed a close contact and is symptomatic (experiencing symptoms) and you are NOT fully immunized.	No – exclude from work- You are excluded from work for the duration of the close contact's isolation. If the close contact converts to a positive case, refer to scenario number 1.
Your household member has been deemed a close contact and is symptomatic (experiencing symptoms) and you are fully immunized, asymptomatic, NOT the primary caregiver and the case CAN isolate away from you.	Yes – safe to work. Remain at work and self-monitor for symptoms. You must remain diligent with completing the HCW screening and current PPE guidelines.
For example: Your teenage child or partner can isolate in the home away from you and you are able to limit your interaction with the case (i.e. only delivering food to outside the room).	
Your household member has been deemed a close contact and is symptomatic (experiencing symptoms) and you ARE the primary caregiver.	No - exclude from work. Regardless of immunization status You are excluded from work for the duration of the close contact's isolation. If the close contact converts to a positive case, refer to scenario number 1.
For example: your child, partner or elderly parent is named a close contact and you are unable to isolate from that individual, you sleep in the same bed or you are responsible for providing direct care like feeding and bathing.	





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3. I have tested positive using the home antigen kit. Is it safe for me to come in to work?

Exposure Scenario	Recommendation
You may be positive for COVID-19.	No - exclude from work. You are advised to isolate and go for immediate PCR testing at a test site and wait for results to determine next steps. Please follow the Return to Work Guide to determine when you can return to work.

4. An individual in my household tested positive using the home antigen kit. Is it safe for me to come in to work?

Exposure Scenario	Recommendation
Your household member may be positive for COVID-19 and you are fully immunized, asymptomatic, NOT the primary caregiver and the case CAN isolate away from you.	Yes – safe to work. Self-monitor for symptoms. You must remain diligent with completing the <u>HCW screening</u> and current PPE guidelines.
<u>For example:</u> Your teenage child or partner can isolate in the home away from you and you are able to limit your interaction with the case (i.e. only delivering food to outside the room).	
Your household member may be positive for COVID-19 and you ARE the primary caregiver. For example: your child, partner or elderly parent is COVID positive and you are unable to isolate from that individual, you sleep in the same bed or you are responsible for providing direct care like feeding and bathing.	No - exclude from work. Regardless of immunization status - You are excluded from work for 14 days following the end of the case's isolation.
Your household member may be positive for COVID-19 and you are NOT fully immunized.	No - exclude from work. Regardless if you are the primary caregiver or not or the case can isolate away from you or not, you are advised to isolate and go for immediate PCR testing at a test site and wait for results to determine next steps. Please follow the HCW RTW Guide to determine when you can return to work.

5. I have symptoms of illness. My Manager recently told me that I should stay home until my symptoms resolve, but I feel well. Is it safe for me to come in to work?

Exposure Scenario	Recommendation
Your symptoms are consistent with COVID-19.	No - exclude from work. Arrange for immediate testing
You are acutely ill unrelated to COVID-19.	No - exclude from work. Stay home. Please follow the HCW RTW Guide to determine when you can return to work.
You are experiencing seasonal allergies or chronic conditions.	Yes – safe to work. Remain at work and self-monitor for symptoms. Routine regular testing is recommended.

6. Yesterday I had lunch/worked with someone who has been named a close contact to a confirmed COVID-19 case today. Is it safe for me to come into work?

Exposure Scenario	Recommendation
You are NOT experiencing symptoms	Yes – safe to work. You are a contact to a contact. Remain at work and self-monitor for symptoms
You are experiencing symptoms	No - exclude from work. Arrange for immediate testing.





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7. I worked in a facility that has been declared to be in outbreak; can I work my secondary position at another facility?

Exposure Scenario	Recommendation
You have been named a close contact by Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) or Public Health (PH)	No - exclude from work. Self-isolate for 14 days from date of last exposure to the individual with confirmed COVID19. Seek testing immediately. Notify your manager(s).
You have NOT been identified as a close contact by OHS or PH and you work shifts in two acute care facilities.	No – do not work at the second facility. Remain working at the outbreak facility. Notify your manager of your secondary facility. Self-monitor for symptoms and regular routine testing is recommended.
You have NOT been identified as a close contact by OHS or PH and you work in two Long Term Care (LTC) facilities.	No – do not work at the second (acute and/or LTC) facility. Remain working at the outbreak facility. Notify your manager of your secondary facility. Self-monitor for symptoms and regular routine testing is recommended.
You have NOT been identified as a close contact by OHS or PPH and you work in a LTC facility and an acute care facility.	No – do not work at the second (acute and/or LTC) facility. Remain working at the outbreak facility. Notify your manager of your secondary facility. Self-monitor for symptoms and regular routine testing is recommended.
You have NOT been identified as a close contact by OHS or PH and you work in another province.	Yes – safe to work. Self-monitor for symptoms.

8. I provided care to a patient who is now being tested for COVID-19. The patient was NOT on Droplet/Contact Plus at the time of care; therefore, I was NOT wearing the appropriate PPE. Is it safe for me to come in to work?

Exposure Scenario	Recommendation
The patient's results are pending.	Yes – safe to work. Self-monitor for symptoms. All workplace exposures should be reported as a safety incident as per your organizations procedures.
You were NOT contacted by OHS or PH indicating you were a contact to a positive case of COVID-19.	Yes – safe to work. Self-monitor for symptoms. All workplace exposures should be reported as a safety incident as per your organizations procedures.
You were named as a non-close contact by OHS or PH as the patient's lab came back positive for COVID-19.	Yes – safe to work. Remain at work. Self-monitor for symptoms. All workplace exposures should be reported as a safety incident as per your organizations procedures.
You were named a close contact by OHS or PPH as the patient's lab came back positive for COVID-19.	No - exclude from work. Self-isolate for 14 days from date of last exposure to the individual with confirmed COVID-19. Arrange for immediate testing and testing at day 10 post exposure.

It is recommended that all HCWs arrange for **immediate testing** if they have any symptoms compatible with COVID-19.

Guidance for the general public is not healthcare guidance and is not intended to be applied in the health-care setting where extra precautions are necessary to protect vulnerable patient and resident populations, as well as your colleagues.

The most up-to-date information on clinical guidance will always be first updated at https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/information-for-health-care-providers.

