

UK ID COVID-19 Team

Guidance for Supervisors in Regards to Staff with Fever or Acute Respiratory Illness

Overall guidance: people at higher risk of severe illness stay home and away from large groups of people as much as possible. People at higher risk include:

- Over 60 years of age
- With underlying health conditions (heart disease, lung disease or diabetes)
- With weakened immune systems
- Who are pregnant

Examples of settings that could be avoided include concert venues, conventions, sporting events and crowded social gatherings. Public Health does not consider hospitals and clinics to be in those same categories as elective social events due to the use of additional measure such as personal protective equipment (PPE) to minimize risk of exposure.

“I’m sick with a fever or acute respiratory infection. What should I do?”

- You should remain at home. You cannot work while ill with a respiratory illness.
- If you need medical care, you should contact your primary physician or urgent care clinic.
- If this is a medical emergency, call 911 or go to your nearest ED.
- Call your supervisor to let them know you are ill.

“Can I get tested for COVID-19?”

- Most ambulatory care clinics at UKHC are able to provide testing, however, testing is up to the discretion of your provider
- Need for testing will be determined on a case by case basis

“Is testing for COVID-19 mandatory?” No.

“I tested negative for COVID-19. When can I return to work?” You may return to work when you are asymptomatic for 24 hours. This applies even if you tested positive for influenza or RSV.

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

- Resolution of fever without use of medication and improvement of illness signs and symptoms with negative results of an FDA-approved COVID test x 2 (tests collected 24 or more hours apart).
- If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you should remain under home isolation precautions until above criteria is met.

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

- If you met criteria for testing but did not get tested, you should remain under home isolation precautions until you are symptom-free for 24 hours.

“What should I do if I have respiratory symptoms but I don’t have fever, new cough, or shortness of breath?”

- You should remain at home while you are ill and may return to work when you are symptom-free for 24 hours.

“I work with high-risk populations and I have fever or acute respiratory symptoms. What should I do?”

- High risk populations: transplant and immunotherapy, all hematologic malignancy, all active chemotherapy, neutropenia (ANC <500), biologic agents for

immunosuppression, steroids >0.5mg/kg/day prednisone equivalent, congenital or acquired immunodeficiency and pregnant women

- You should contact your primary care physician to be tested for illnesses such as the flu and COVID-19.

My employee fits into the “high-risk population” and has asked if they should deliver patient care. What do I do?

- Staff and faculty in this category should continue to work per their regular schedules. Individuals are invited to talk to their team leader or manager about any concerns. We understand the concerns with direct patient care of patients with known COVID-19 and suggest these individuals talk to their team leader or manager about this. If this is a difficult conversation, we are here to help navigate it.
- Examples of settings that could be avoided include concert venues, conventions, sporting events and crowded social gatherings. Public Health does not consider hospitals and clinics to be in those same categories as elective social events due to the use of additional measure such as personal protective equipment (PPE) to minimize risk of exposure.