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| SEAL_v2008-07_web%20large | **Commonwealth of Massachusetts** |
| ***Executive Office of Health and Human Services*** |
| **Department of Youth Services** |
| **Criteria for Discontinuation of Home Isolation (Staying at Home) and Return to Work for Employees in DYS Residential Programs** |

**Employee is identified as a close contact of COVID-19 – When to End Home Isolation**

If a staff member is identified by **their local board of health** as a close contact of a COVID-19 case (either within the facility or in the community)

1. If no symptom (such as fever, shortness of breath, dry cough) at the time of notification by the local board of health, the staff member is to self-quarantine at home for 14 days and can return to work if symptom free.

If experiencing symptoms (such as fever, shortness of breath, dry cough) at the time of notification by the local board of health, the staff member is to refer to the CDC Guidance: What To Do If You Are Sick and follow the guidelines below for **Discontinuation of Home Isolation for Persons with COVID-19 (**based on EOHHS Guidance for Residential and Congregate Care Programs, CDC criteria for return to work for personnel with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 and MDPH Guidance for Testing of Persons with Suspect COVID-19).

**Employees with suspected (symptoms of respiratory infection such as cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, fever and did not get tested) or confirmed case of COVID-19 – Return to Work Criteria:**

**COVID-19 POSITIVE RESULT WITH SYMPTOMS**

Employees who have a laboratory-confirmed case of COVID-19, and HAVE or HAD symptoms, may discontinue home isolation and return to work under the following conditions:

* + - They have had no fever for at least 72 hours (that is three full days of no fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers)  
      AND
    - Respiratory symptoms have improved (for example, when their cough or shortness of breath have improved)  
      AND
    - at least 10 days have passed since their symptoms first appeared

**COVID-19 POSITIVE RESULT NO SYMPTOMS**

Employees who have a laboratory-confirmed case of COVID-19 who have not had any symptoms may discontinue home isolation and return to work under the following conditions:

10 days have passed since the date of their first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test assuming the employee has not subsequently developed symptoms since their positive test.

However, if the employee develops symptoms, then the *COVID-19 Positive Results with Symptoms* guideline should be used.  *Note*, because symptoms cannot be used to gauge where the individual is in the course of their illness, it is possible that the duration of viral shedding could be longer or shorter than 10 days after their first positive test.

**COVID-19 POSITIVE HAVING COMPLETED MEDICAL ISOLATION**

Individuals previously diagnosed with COVID-19 infection confirmed by molecular diagnostic testing may continue to have PCR detection of viral RNA for several weeks. This does not correlate with the presence or transmissibility of live virus and those who have been cleared from isolation by either the symptom-based or test-based strategy, are not recommended for re-testing within 6 weeks of their original diagnosis. These individuals are also not subject to quarantine during this period.

**COVID-19 NEGATIVE RESULT WITH SYMPTOMS**

Employees who have a laboratory-negative result, and HAVE symptoms, may discontinue home isolation and return to work under the following conditions:

* They have contacted their Healthcare Provider for evaluation;
* At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
* At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared

If employee had COVID-19 ruled out by the healthcare provider and have an alternate diagnosis (e.g., tested positive for influenza), criteria for return to work should be based on that diagnosis as determined by their healthcare provider.

**After returning to work, the employee must:**

* Wear a facemask at all times while in the facility.
* Be restricted from contact with severely immunocompromised youth (e.g., transplant, hematology-oncology) until 14 days after illness onset.
* Adhere to hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene, cough etiquette (e.g., cover nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing, dispose of tissues in waste receptacles)
* Self-monitor for symptoms and seek re-evaluation from their healthcare provider if respiratory symptoms recur or worsen.