

Guidance Document for COVID-19



Title: COVID-19 Work Isolation Procedures	Version #: 1
Approved: COVID-19 Incident Manager Signature: 	Approval Date: December 24 2021
<i>This document is intended to provide guidance to staff/professional staff during COVID-19</i>	

1. PURPOSE

To clarify the work isolation procedures during COVID-19, related to *Return to Work Process*

2. GUIDELINES (e.g. background, definitions, procedure, etc.)

Occupational Health & Safety (OHS) manages the return to work (RTW) of health care workers (HCW) post exposure to a COVID positive individual that has been deemed high risk. After hours the process is managed by the Administrative Coordinator. This protocol may also be applied for certain cases of failed COVID-19 self-screening. Low risk contacts may continue to work and monitor for symptoms as usual. The determination of high and low risk is made by OHS (see work-isolation procedures management algorithm)

Work-isolation allows fully vaccinated and asymptomatic HCWs to return to work following a negative PCR test and additional protocols. Processes are determined based on Ministry of Health and Public Health guidelines. HCWs who meet the return to work criteria are required to self-isolate when they are not at work.

At this time, fully vaccinated and asymptomatic HCWs deemed high risk from a community or workplace exposure will be given a PCR test upon notification of the exposure and are required to return to work for their next shift upon confirmation of a negative result, following work self-isolation procedures. Household contacts with a COVID-19 positive case cannot return to work will be required to test and self-isolate for 10 days as per current public health guidance.

How to self-isolate while working:

- Following a negative PCR test the HCW will be instructed to return to work and:
- Take a rapid antigen test before each shift during for the remainder of the 10 day isolation period. The HCW can continue to work as long as they test negative and they continue to be asymptomatic.
- Complete COVID-19 self-screening prior to each shift (usual practice).
- Travel to and from work in a private vehicle. If taking public transit, wear a surgical/procedure mask and perform hand hygiene before and after travel to work.

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- At all times while at work, wear mask and eye protection based on Routine Practices and Additional Precautions.
- Don and doff procedure gown between each patient interaction (where applicable).
- Not eat meals in a shared space (e.g., conference room, lunch room) with other HCWs.
- Work in only one facility where possible.
- Self-isolate when outside of the workplace.

If symptoms of COVID-19 develop:

- While at work – Immediately self-isolate (i.e., remove yourself from providing care) and inform your immediate manager/supervisor and OHS.
- While at home – Immediately self-isolate in your home. Notify your immediate manager/supervisor and or OHS. Complete the COVID-19 self screening tool.
- Do not report back to work without clearance from OHS.

3. RELATED POLICIES, PRACTICES AND/OR LEGISLATIONS

- Public Health Ontario –how to self-isolate while working – recommendation for health care workers

4. REFERENCES

<https://www.tbdhu.com/selfisolation>