

COVID-19 Guidance for Essential Workers Who Do Not Work in Health Care



As of April 8, 2020, [CDC loosened some of the restrictions for critical infrastructure workers](#). However, we are requiring non-health care workers to follow [DHS stricter employee illness guidelines](#). The DHS guidelines say that if an essential non-health care worker has been exposed to a person with COVID-19, they should quarantine themselves for 14 days before returning to work. By implementing this illness policy in the workplace, further spread amongst staff may be prevented and lead to a safer and more productive workforce.

Keep an eye on your health every day

- Check your temperature before you start your shift, preferably before you leave home.
- Perform regular monitoring of symptoms (cough, shortness of breath, sore throat).
- Consider wearing a cloth face covering or mask while performing your work.
- Social distancing (staying 6 feet away from other people) should be practiced as duties permit.
- Keep working, as long as you do not have symptoms, a fever (100.4 °F), or have been exposed.

Take action if you get sick

- If you get sick with any of the above symptoms, do not go to work. If you have symptoms at any time during your shift, go home and immediately isolate yourself.
- Call your healthcare provider for testing and follow their recommendations. You can also [follow our recommendations for isolation](#).

Come back to work when you're healthy

Symptomatic people (regardless of confirmed COVID-19 test), can come out of isolation after **all 3 of these things** have happened:

- You have had no fever for at least 24 hours without the use of medicine that reduces fevers **AND**
- Other symptoms are improving (for example, your cough or shortness of breath are improving) **AND**
- At least 10 days have passed since your symptoms first appeared

If you are told that you were exposed to a person diagnosed with COVID-19

- Let your employer know that you have been exposed to COVID-19.
- Self-quarantine for 14 days. This means you should not go to work and should avoid leaving your home as much as possible.
- If you do not develop symptoms (cough, shortness of breath, sore throat) or a fever 100.4 °F or greater, you can return to work after 14 days.
- If you develop symptoms during quarantine, immediately isolate yourself.