

COVID-19 Return to Work Guidance for the General Public



NOTE: This document provides return to work guidance for the general public. Separate guidance for individuals in healthcare, schools, and certain high-risk settings is available at www.doh.wa.gov.

In addition to the below guidance, workplaces should be aware of the following:

- Employees who are sick should stay home and get tested for COVID-19 if they have COVID-19 symptoms.
- **Employees who test positive for COVID-19 DO NOT a negative test result or a note from a physician to return to work.**
- All employees should continue to wear a face mask after isolation or quarantine.

When can employees return to work?



If they tested positive for COVID-19, regardless of their vaccination status:

- They should stay home and self-isolate for 5 full days
 - They may end isolation after 5 days if they have been fever-free for 24 hours and other symptoms are improving
 - If they do not have symptoms, they may end isolation after 5 days after their positive test.

If they were severely ill with COVID-19 or are immunocompromised, they should isolate for at least 10 days.

If they were exposed to COVID-19 and are unvaccinated or are fully vaccinated and due for their booster dose:

- They must quarantine and stay home for at least 5 full days
- They should get tested at least 5 days after their last exposure and stay home until they receive their results

If they were exposed to COVID-19 and are fully vaccinated and boosted, or not yet eligible for their booster dose:

- They do not need to stay home unless they develop symptoms.
- They should get tested at least 5 days after their last exposure and follow isolation guidance if they test positive