



Guidance for Return to Work Criteria for **Health Care Providers** to Health Care Settings

There are two options for a return to work criteria:

1. ***Non-test-based strategy***

- a. Exclude health care personnel from work until:
 - i. At least 72 hours have passed since recovery, defined as resolution of fever without fever-reducing medications **AND** improvement in respiratory symptoms (cough and shortness of breath, among other related symptoms)
AND
 - ii. At least 7 days have passed since symptoms first appeared

2. ***Test-based strategy***

- a. Exclude health care personnel from work until:
 - i. Resolution of fever without fever-reducing medications
AND
 - ii. Improvement in respiratory symptoms (cough and shortness of breath, among other related symptoms)
AND
 - iii. Negative Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) based tests approved by the FDA from at least two consecutive nasopharyngeal swab specimens collected greater than or equal to 24 hours apart (total of two negative specimens)

After returning to work, the health care personnel should:

1. Wear a facemask at all times while in the healthcare facility until 14 days after symptoms first appeared.
2. Be restricted from contact with immunocompromised patients until 14 days after symptoms first appeared.
3. Adhere to hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette.
4. Self-monitor for symptoms and seek re-evaluation from occupational health if symptoms return or worsen.