Guidance for Critical Infrastructure Worksites and Workers During COVID-19

Effective April 28, 2020

Public Health
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Jackson County Health Department

This guidance document is intended only for critical infrastructure businesses and their workers.

What worksites or occupations are considered critical infrastructure?

- Workers, including employees, contracted vendors, temporary workers, and volunteers, in the following workplaces/occupations are considered critical infrastructure workers:
  - **Food (production, distribution and sales including restaurants and grocery stores)** o Federal, state, & local law enforcement
  - 911 call center employees o Fusion Center employees
  - Hazardous material responders from government and the private sector o Janitorial staff and other custodial staff
  - Agriculture o Critical manufacturing o Informational technology
  - Transportation
  - Energy
  - Government facilities

What should I do if a worker tests positive for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)?

- You may be informed by the individual themselves or by the Health Department that a worker at your facility has tested positive or has been directly exposed to a positive COVID-19 case.
  - When the Health Department is notified of the positive test, they will contact you to help with the case follow-up.

For a confirmed or presumed positive case (someone exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms[2]), if the individual is still at work, **immediately have them put on a mask (if available) and send them home. Instruct them to isolate at home for at least 7 days. They must be 3 days without fever (without use of fever reducing medication, AND improvements in respiratory symptoms (cough, shortness of breath*), AND at least 7 days have passed.**

- They should also contact their health care provider or Health Department for guidance.
  - Family/household members of confirmed/presumed positive cases are considered high risk and must self-quarantine at home monitor for symptoms for 14 days beyond their contact's end of symptoms.
- Prohibit workers from sharing headsets or other objects used near the mouth or nose.
- Increase the frequency of cleaning commonly touched surfaces.
- Businesses should work with facility maintenance staff to increase air exchanges in room.
- Workers should physically distance when they take breaks together. Stagger breaks and don't congregate in the break room, and don't share food or utensils. Don't congregate at water fountains, bathrooms, locker rooms, or time clock.

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What should I do if a worker has direct exposure[1] to a positive case?

Exposed or potentially exposed critical infrastructure workers may continue to work, <u>as long as they</u> <u>are asymptomatic</u>, but must adhere to the following practices prior to and during their work shift:

- Pre-Screen for COVID-19 symptoms when arriving for a shift:
  - Employers should measure the employee's temperature and assess symptoms prior to them starting work.
  - Ideally, temperature checks should happen before the individual enters the facility. o Check temperature and symptoms a second time during their shift.
- **If symptoms develop, a worker must notify their supervisor and immediately leave the workplace.**
- Wear a facemask at all times at the worksite until 14 days after date of exposure or potential exposure. Facemasks should also be worn when 6 feet social distance cannot be maintained between workers.
- Practice social distancing. The employee should maintain 6 feet of distance from others as their duties permit.
- Clean and disinfect all areas such as offices, bathrooms, common areas, shared electronic equipment routinely.
- Workers should wash hands frequently with soap and water or use hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue and immediately throw the tissue in the trash and wash their hands, or if no tissue is available, cough or sneeze into their elbow.
- **Any business with areas open to the public** that have a worker who is a confirmed or presumed positive COVID-19 case AND that worker has worked in the facility within the last 72 hours **must temporarily close the public area and may not reopen it until they have cleaned and disinfected the public access areas.**
- **Restaurants shall clean and sanitize all food preparation and food storage areas.**
- After the positive worker has been sent home and the areas described above have been cleaned, disinfected, and/or sanitized, the facility may re-open.

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When can my staff return to work?

- Confirmed/presumed cases must isolate for a minimum of seven days after symptom onset or a positive test (whichever is first) AND must be fever and symptom-free for at least 3 days (without use of fever reducing medication, AND improvements in respiratory symptoms (cough, shortness of breath*), AND at least 7 days have passed**.
- Both criteria must be met in order for the staff member to return to work**.
    - Example 1: If a staff member tested positive, isolated for 7 days, but were fever free and feeling well on day 4, he/she should not return to work until day 8. They would have isolated for the minimum seven days and been fever and/or symptom free for 3 days. o Example 2: If a staff member tests positive, isolates, but fever and symptoms do not end until day 12 after a positive test, he/she could not return until day 16. Even though the minimum seven-day isolation requirement was met, the staff member could not return to work until they were fever and symptom-free for 3 days.
- If your worksite requires employees have a doctor's note before returning to work, that must be obtained by the employee through their healthcare provider. The Health Department does not provide return to work notes. Those that tested positive and were placed in isolation by the Health Department, the Health Department will issue those persons an isolation release letter.

What can I do to prevent COVID-19 from spreading at my worksite?

- All workers should wear a mask at all times in congregate settings, when working with others, or when social distancing is not feasible. See the Governor's Executive Order.
    - If disposable masks are unavailable, cloth face coverings may be used. See these CDC guidelines on how to create a cloth face covering.
- All staff should **stay home** if sick.
- Restrict, as described above, employees if they have a family/household member who is a confirmed or presumed positive (exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms) case for COVID-19.
- Staff should wash their hands often, cover coughs and sneezes, avoid touching shared surfaces.
- Staff should practice social distancing and remain at least six feet apart.
- Do not allow gatherings of more than 10 people. Use virtual meetings whenever possible.

Footnotes referenced above

[1] What is considered direct exposure to COVID-19? (Who is a close contact?)

- Direct exposure to COVID-19 (close contact) means an individual had **at least 10 minutes of cumulative contact** <u>AND</u> **that contact was within 6 feet** of the infected person during the period starting 48 hours before symptom onset.
- COVID-19 is primarily transmitted through droplets from coughing, sneezing, or talking. These droplets do not remain in the air. They fall to the ground or surfaces. This means that being in the same room as a confirmed case does not necessarily mean the person was directly exposed.
  - Transmission occurs when an uninfected person either inhales droplets or ingests them by touching infected surfaces and then touching their mouth, nose, or eyes.

[2] Symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- Fever (temperature above 100.4^{o}F)
- Cough
- Headache
- Chills or Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- New loss of taste of smell
- Sore throat
- Shortness of breath

Source: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/critical-workers/implementing-safety-practices.html

For more information on COVID-19, visit https://www.jchdonline.org/and www.cdc.gov/coronavirus
For further questions, contact the Jackson County Health Department at (618) 684-3143