

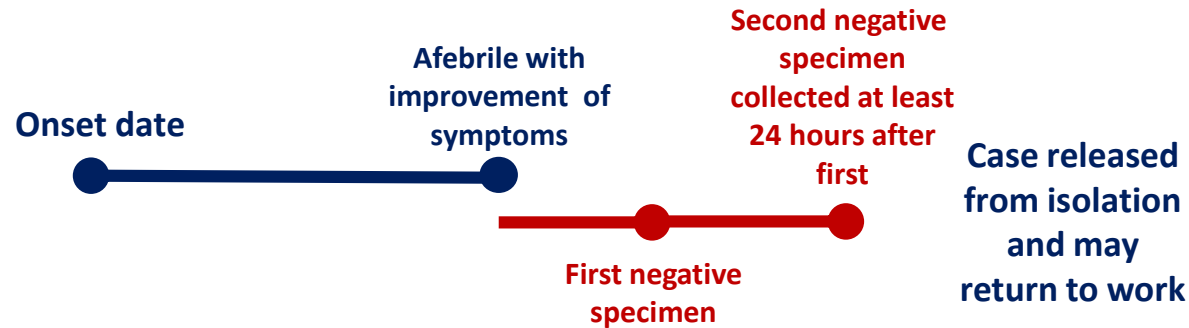
# TEST-BASED STRATEGY FOR HEALTHCARE PERSONNEL RETURN TO WORK

Texas Department of State Health Services

Adapted from the Tennessee Department of Health

## SYMPTOMATIC CASES

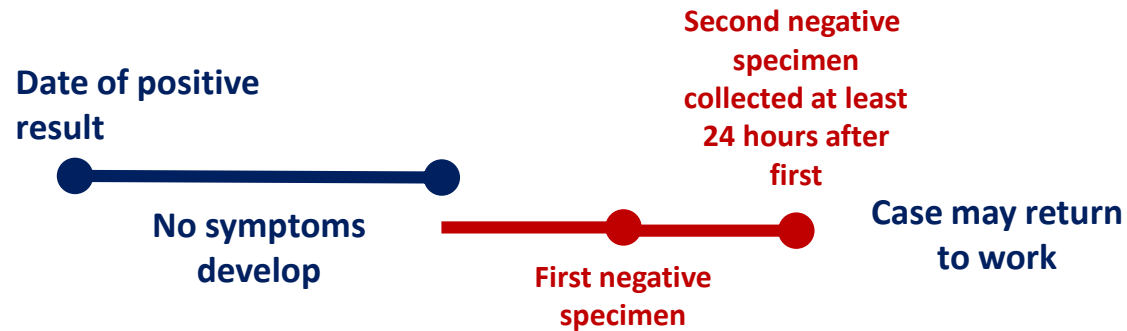
Must be isolated and excluded from work until afebrile (without the use of fever reducing medications) **and** with improvement of respiratory symptoms, **and** after receiving negative results of an FDA Emergency Use Authorized molecular assay for COVID-19 from at least two consecutive nasopharyngeal swab specimens collected  $\geq 24$  hours apart (total of two negative specimens).



## ASYMPTOMATIC CASES

Must be excluded from work until after receiving negative results of an FDA Emergency Use Authorized molecular assay for COVID-19 from at least two consecutive nasopharyngeal swab specimens collected  $\geq 24$  hours apart (total of two negative specimens).<sup>1</sup>

If the HCP develops symptoms, they should self-isolate and follow instructions above for "symptomatic cases."



<sup>1</sup> Note, because of the absence of symptoms, it is not possible to gauge where these individual are in the course of their illness. There have been reports of prolonged detection of RNA without direct correlation to viral culture.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

There may be additional requirements for HCP to be cleared to return to work at their healthcare facility.

### After returning to work, HCP should:

- Wear a medical facemask (and not a cloth face covering) for source control at all times while in the healthcare facility until all symptoms are completely resolved or at baseline.
- Self-monitor for symptoms and seek re-evaluation from occupational health if respiratory symptoms occur, recur, or worsen.

# NON-TEST-BASED STRATEGIES FOR HEALTHCARE PERSONNEL RETURN TO WORK

Adapted from the Tennessee Department of Health

## SYMPTOMATIC CASES

### Symptom-Based Strategy

Must be isolated and excluded from work for a minimum of 10 days after symptom onset and can be released after afebrile (without the use of fever reducing medications) for at least 72 hours and with improvement of respiratory symptoms

#### Examples:

- A case that is well on day 2 and afebrile and feeling well for 72 hours must remain isolated and excluded from work until day 10.
- A case that is well on day 7 and afebrile and feeling well for 72 hours can be released on day 10 and may return to work.
- A case that is well on day 10 and afebrile and feeling well for 72 hours can be released on day 13 and may return to work.



## ASYMPTOMATIC CASES

### Time-Based Strategy

Must be excluded from work until 10 days have passed since the date of the first positive test, assuming they have not subsequently developed symptoms since the positive result.<sup>2</sup>

If the HCP develops symptoms, they should self-isolate and follow instructions above for "symptomatic cases."



<sup>2</sup> Note, because symptoms cannot be used to gauge where these individuals are in the course of their illness, it is possible that the duration of viral shedding could be longer or shorter than 10 days after their first positive test.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

There may be additional requirements for HCP to be cleared to return to work at their healthcare facility.

#### After returning to work, HCP should:

- Wear a medical facemask (and not a cloth face covering) for source control at all times while in the healthcare facility until all symptoms are completely resolved or at baseline.
- Self-monitor for symptoms and seek re-evaluation from occupational health if respiratory symptoms occur, recur, or worsen.