

WEST PALM BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT



COVID-19 RETURN TO WORK PROCEDURE March 27, 2020

If considered High Risk, personnel may be placed in quarantine or self-isolation at the direction of the Fire Chief. This may be for up to 14 days from the day of exposure. If asymptomatic for 14 days personnel, are eligible to return to work. If personnel become symptomatic, they should isolate and follow the guidance below for returning to work.

You may be cleared for return to work, if the following conditions are met:

If you tested positive for COVID-19, exclude from work until:

- Your fever is **less than 99.9 F** without the use of fever-reducing medications **AND**
- You have improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) **AND**
- You have negative results (of an FDA Emergency Use Authorized molecular assay for COVID-19) from at least two consecutive nasopharyngeal swab specimens collected ≥ 24 hours apart (a total of two negative specimens).

If you did not receive a COVID-19 test, exclude from work until:

- It's been at least three (3) days (72 hours) since recovery (defined as fever **less than 99.9 F** without the use of fever-reducing medications) and improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) **AND**
- **At least seven (7) days** have passed since symptoms first appeared.

After returning to work:

- Continue with **twice-daily** self-monitoring on and off shift until further notice.
- Adhere to hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette.
- Practice social distancing when appropriate.

Sources: 1. CDC Criteria for Return to Work for Healthcare Personnel with Confirmed or Suspected COVID-19 (Interim Guidance). <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/healthcare-facilities/hcp-return-work.htm>.

2. CDC Interim U.S. Guidance for Risk Assessment and Public Health Management of Healthcare Personnel with Potential Exposure in a Healthcare Setting to Patients with Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19). <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assessment-hcp.html>.