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## ***CDC Continues to Update Re-Opening Guidance***

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently revised the guidance regarding when to return an employee to work following a positive COVID-19 test. These revisions shorten the period of time a person should self-isolate and adopt a symptom-based strategy rather than a test-based strategy. The CDC guidance may be found [here](#).

Below is a summary of that new guidance:

| <b>COVID-19 Diagnosis</b>   | <b>Symptoms</b>               | <b>Isolation/Quarantine Period</b>   |
|---|-------------------------------|--|
| Positive for COVID-19   | Asymptomatic<br>(no symptoms) | <b>10 days.</b> Those who tested positive but never develop symptoms can end isolation (and return to work) 10 days after their positive test.   |
| Positive for COVID-19   | Mild to Moderate              | <b>10 days, including 24 hours without any symptoms.</b> Those who tested positive and have mild to moderate symptoms can end isolation after 10 days if at least 24 hours have passed without a fever and other symptoms have improved. |
| Positive for COVID-19   | Severe                        | <b>Up to 20 days.</b> Those who tested positive and have severe illness may need to continue isolation for a full 20 days.   |
| No diagnosis, but exposed to COVID-19 [i.e., in close contact with someone with COVID-19] | Asymptomatic<br>(no symptoms) | <b>14 days.</b> Those who were exposed COVID-19 but were not tested or even tested negative should quarantine for the full 14 days.  |

Questions? Contact Stokes Wagner.

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In addition, the CDC advises that employers should no longer require a negative test for an employee who has tested positive to be permitted to return to work. Instead, it recommends the symptom-based approach outlined above. Similarly, it is not advisable to accept a negative test conducted immediately after an employee was potentially exposed to COVID-19 as the illness may take days to manifest itself.

It is worth noting that the EEOC's "[Pandemic Preparedness in the Workplace and the Americans with Disabilities Act](#)," which clarified that employers are allowed to require an employee to submit to COVID-19 testing before returning to work, remains in effect. Nevertheless, this practice is no longer advisable by the CDC.

As public health departments learn new information about COVID-19 every day, businesses should continue to monitor updates from the CDC and their public health departments.

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