

COVID-19 Testing Clarification for Employers

When can my employee safely return to work?

Negative Test Result - Tested Due to Exposure:

When an individual is exposed to someone that has tested positive for COVID-19, they must quarantine for the FULL 14-days even if they themselves have tested negative after exposure.

It can take up to 14-days for symptoms of COVID-19 to develop. Please note: Your employee may be asked to quarantine for 14-days regardless of their test result.

The diagnostic COVID-19 test only proves that an individual was negative at the time the test was administered. A negative test does not indicate immunity or past infection. An individual could become infected the next day.

Negative Test Result - Tested Due to Symptoms:

When an individual is tested due to present symptoms but has had NO KNOWN exposure to a COVID positive, individual should quarantine until they are at least 72-hours symptom free.

Positive Test Result - Symptomatic:

Individuals who test positive must quarantine for at least 10-days post symptom onset and until 72-hours symptom free.

Positive Test Result - Asymptomatic:

Individuals who test positive but have no symptoms must quarantine for at least 10-days post test date. If any symptoms appear during the 10 day period, individual must quarantine for 10-days post symptom onset and until 72-hours symptom free.

The Franklin County Health Department does not recommend requiring employees to have a negative COVID-19 test result before returning to work.