

## **COVID-19 Webinar Questions – 5/6/20**

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### **What are the screening symptom questions?**

- Fever measured or feeling feverish or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

### **What is a good temperature-testing device?**

Obtain an infrared thermometer that has been FDA approved.

### **Where can I obtain advice on how to perform screening for my employees?**

Sanford OccMed has a train the trainer program to provide the education.

### **How can businesses decide when patrons can return to their business site if they have been screened and turned away?**

Screen all customers and make your decision on the screening questions and temperature results at the time of their coming to your facility.

### **How do I handle employees who are contracted and come to my worksite?**

All individuals who are to enter your worksite should be screened whether they are your employees or not.

### **What should I require from my employees before allowing them back to work after they have been ill?**

A telephone wellness assessment following CDC guidelines is your best option.

### **How do I handle employees who travel out of the state for work?**

- These employees currently would need to self-quarantine for 14 days
- There are exceptions for essential workers

**What are the medical conditions that put individuals at high risk for complications from COVID-19?**

- Individuals age 65 or older
- Individuals with chronic health problems such as:
  - Heart disease
  - Lung disease
  - Diabetes
  - Immune system problems

**Should I isolate an employee who has been in contact with a person who has been ill but not found to have COVID infection?**

- Individuals who have been exposed to people with a positive COVID test should self-isolate for 14 days.
- For other illnesses, self-isolation is not required.

**How do I handle return to work with employees who have been sick and tested for COVID?**

- If they are COVID negative they can return to work once their symptoms have improved:
  - 3 days with no fever and not using fever-reducing medications, AND
  - Improvement in their cough and shortness of breath, AND
  - It has been at least 7 days from the onset of symptoms
- If they are COVID positive they can return to work once their symptoms have improved:
  - 3 days with no fever and not using fever-reducing medications, AND
  - Improvement in their cough and shortness of breath, AND
  - It has been at least 10 days from the onset of symptoms

**If my staff have been in the same building as an individual who tested positive for COVID-19 what should I do?**

- Exposure is being within 6 feet of the individual for a significant period of time (not just a few seconds, but rather minutes). If they have been exposed they should self-isolate for 14 days.
- If your employee has not had direct contact as listed above, the employee can remain at work.

### **How do I care for masks?**

Keep the mask in a dry paper bag. Clearly identify whose mask it is and have each employer responsible for their own mask. Discard masks at least every 5 days or sooner if they are soiled or damaged.

### **Should I include a COVID test or antibody test in my pre-employment exam and what should I do if the employer tests positive for COVID-19 or the antibody test is negative?**

- A positive test for COVID-19 indicates that they currently have a COVID infection. Generally, the illness is gone within 10-14 days. Denying them employment forever does not make sense.
- If an individual has an antibody test with a positive result, they have antibodies and may be immune to COVID-19. Results of COVID antibody testing is unreliable at this time to make individual employment decisions. Antibody testing should be used to test a whole population (your whole staff) to measure overall immunity estimate and not use the result for individual employment decisions.

### **How long should we follow precautions and continue social distancing?**

Unfortunately, this is for the long-term until we develop a vaccine, or 70% of the population has been infected and we have developed herd immunity.

### **How do I fulfill my DOT drug testing requirements during the pandemic?**

Drug and alcohol testing rules have not been relaxed during the pandemic. A company must fulfill the requirements of alcohol and drug testing regulations. If you tried and are unable to meet your quarterly requirements, you must catch up in the next quarter or before the end of the year.

### **Where do I get more information on COVID-19 as it relates to my business?**

- [www.sanfordoccmmed.com](http://www.sanfordoccmmed.com)
- [www.cdc.gov/COVID19](http://www.cdc.gov/COVID19)