SACRAMENTO COUNTY

SACRAMENTO COUNTY
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Promote • Prevent • Protect

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Response Guidelines for Food Facilities with a COVID-19 Positive or Symptomatic Employee

Background

COVID-19, also known as the novel coronavirus, is a respiratory illness that is spread through the air via respiratory droplets from an infected person or by touching contaminated surfaces.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) advises that critical infrastructure workers (including workers in food facilities) may be permitted to continue work following potential exposure to COVID-19, provided they remain asymptomatic and additional precautions are implemented to protect them and the community.

Requirements for workers

Several different situations are listed below. Scroll down to find the situation that applies to your facility. If you have further questions, please contact Sacramento County Environmental Management Department at (916) 875-8440.

Situation #1 - Worker has potentially been exposed to COVID-19 (no symptoms)

A potential exposure means a household contact or having close contact (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes) of another individual who is confirmed or suspected to be COVID-19 positive. This would include the 48 hours before the suspected or confirmed individual became symptomatic.

If the potential exposure is a household contact, the worker should self-quarantine for 14 days and monitor for symptoms of COVID-19. If no symptoms develop, the worker may return to work after the 14 day quarantine.

Workers who have had an exposure outside of a household contact and remain asymptomatic should follow the practices listed below **prior to and during their work shift:**

➢ **Pre-Screen:** Employers should measure the employee's temperature and assess symptoms before starting work. The best practice is to perform a temperature check before the employee enters the facility or begins their work shift. Employees with a fever of 100.4°F or greater should be sent home. If onsite temperature screening is not feasible, an acceptable alternative is for employers to require employees to self-screen for symptoms, including fever. Prior to each shift, employers should ask employees to attest that they 1) are not exhibiting any symptoms of illness; 2) do not have a fever of 100.4°F or greater; and 3) have not had recent contact with someone who is suspected or known to be infected with COVID-19.

➢ **Regular Monitoring:** Worker should continue to self-monitor for temperature and symptoms. If temperature increases over 100.4F or symptoms appear, employer should be notified immediately.

- ➢ **Wear a Face Covering:** The employee should wear a [face covering](#) at all times while in the workplace for 14 days after last exposure. Employers can issue facemasks or can approve employees' supplied cloth face coverings in the event of shortages.
- ➢ **Social Distance:** The workers should maintain 6 ft. of social distancing as much as possible.
- ➢ **Clean and Disinfect Work Spaces:** Clean and disinfect all areas, including offices, bathrooms, common areas, shared electronic equipment etc.

Situation #2 - Worker becomes ill with COVID-19 symptoms* or Worker reports a positive COVID-19 test result and has symptoms

If a worker becomes sick or gets a positive COVID-19 test result during the shift, they should be sent home immediately.

Surfaces in their workspace should be cleaned and disinfected.

Information on persons who had contact with the ill employee during the time the employee had symptoms and 2 days prior to symptoms should be compiled.

Others at the facility with close contact within 6 feet of the employee during this time are considered to be exposed.

Workers diagnosed with COVID-19, or having symptoms of COVID-19 should not return to work until **all three** of the following criteria are met:

1. At least 1 day (24 hours) has passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever reducing medications, **and**
2. The individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath, etc.), **and**
3. At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

If worker has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and does not get evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, the individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return until they have completed the same three step criteria listed above.

If a worker has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return before completing the above self-isolation period, the individual must obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis.

Situation #3 - Worker reports a positive COVID-19 test result and has no symptoms

Workers who have tested positive for COVID-19 but have not had any symptoms have two options for discontinuing isolation and returning to work. If symptoms develop, see the list below.

NO symptoms develop

- ➢ Workers may return to work after 10 days have passed from the date of the positive COVID-19 diagnostic test if they have not subsequently developed symptoms.

Or

- ➢ Worker may return to work if they have negative results of an FDA Emergency Use Authorized COVID-19 molecular assay for detection of SARS-CoV-2 RNA from at least two consecutive respiratory specimens collected ≥24 hours apart (total of two negative specimens).

If symptoms develop while waiting for 10 days or test results

If symptoms develop, workers should not return to work until **all three** of the following criteria are met:

1. At least 1 day (24 hours) has passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever reducing medications, **and**

2. The individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath, etc.), **and**

3. At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

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.

Note: Because of the absence of symptoms, it is not possible to gauge where these individuals are in the course of their illness. It has been reported that some individuals continue to test positive for detection of COVID-19 RNA for several weeks or months without evidence that they continue to be contagious during that time period.

The decision for workers to discontinue isolation and return to work should be made in consultation with their healthcare provider.

Situation #4 – Three or more workers have symptoms and/or COVID-19 positive test results

Immediately notify Sacramento County Public Health (SCPH) at (916) 875-5881 if there is a known or suspected outbreak in the workplace. A workplace outbreak is defined as three confirmed cases of COVID-19.

Instruct workers to stay home if they are having symptoms of COVID-19, were diagnosed with COVID-19, or are awaiting test results for COVID-19.

➢ Businesses may use their discretion and close voluntarily when a potential exposure to COVID-19 has been identified in the workplace.

➢ The business may be ordered to close by SCPH on a case by case basis when a workplace outbreak has been identified.

➢ Workplaces with an identified outbreak must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected prior to reopening.

➢ Workplaces should thoroughly clean and disinfect the premises after a potential exposure to COVID-19 has been identified.

Please refer to the guidance for Implementing Safety Practices for Workplace Outbreak of COVID-19.

Requirements for the Workplace

Should the business close?

➢ Businesses may use their discretion and close voluntarily when a potential exposure to COVID-19 has been identified in the workplace.

➢ Sacramento County Public Health may require a business to close when an outbreak has been identified. An outbreak is defined as three or more confirmed COVID-19 positive cases. Outbreaks and will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

Cleaning protocols:

- ➢ Increase air circulation in the area, following applicable guidelines for food-service establishments.
- ➢ Use recommended personal protective equipment (PPE) for cleaning and disinfecting.
- ➢ Clean and disinfect all areas used by the infected person (for example, work stations, offices, bathrooms and other common areas).
- ➢ Clean and disinfect shared electronic equipment (for example, touch screen, keyboard and mouse, remote control) and other shared equipment.
- ➢ If more than 7 days have passed since the sick person visited or used the facility, additional cleaning and disinfection is not necessary.
- ➢ Continue routine cleaning and disinfection.

Notification of Employees:

- ➢ Employers should notify all employees who were potentially exposed to the individual(s) with COVID-19.

Food:

- ➢ It is not necessary to recall or destroy food products that the worker may have handled.

Guidance for disinfecting the workplace after having a worker who tests positive or is ill with COVID-19 is available on the [CDC website](#).

Additional Considerations

- ➢ Workers should not share headsets or other objects that would be located near the mouth or nose.
- ➢ Employers should increase the frequency of cleaning commonly touched surfaces.
- ➢ Employers should work with facility maintenance staff to increase air exchanges in room.
- ➢ Workers should physically distance when they take breaks together. Stagger breaks and avoid congregation in the break room. Do not share food or utensils.

Employers should implement a plan to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace. CDC has published recommendations which can be found in the [Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to COVID-19](#).

Resources

[CDC Center for Disease Control (CDC) Webpage](#)
[Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019](#)
[EPA Approved Disinfectants](#)
[Sacramento County COVID-19 updates](#)
[Employer Playbook For a Reopening](#)