

## Appendix 5.

# What to do if a worker becomes ill with known or suspected Covid-19

Food facilities need to follow protocols set by local and state health departments regarding persons with known or suspected Covid-19. In general, they should do the following:

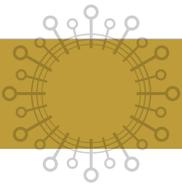
### 1 **Managing workers** who are or may be ill with Covid-19

- If a worker calls in ill, they should be advised to remain at home, self-isolate, and seek medical advice
- If a worker is found to be ill when screened on arrival, they should immediately be separated from other persons and advised to do the following:
  - Place a face covering over their nose and mouth
  - Return home immediately, self-isolate, and seek medical advice
- If a worker becomes ill while at work, they should notify their supervisor immediately
  - They should immediately be separated from other persons and advised to do the following:
    - Place a face covering over their nose and mouth
      - Return home immediately, self-isolate, and seek medical advice
- If a worker who calls in ill, is found to be ill on arrival at the workplace, or becomes ill while working, reports or exhibits any emergency warning signs for Covid-19, a call for emergency assistance should be placed
  - Emergency warning signs include the following:\*
  - Trouble breathing
  - Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
  - New confusion or inability to arouse
  - Bluish lips or face

**\*Note:** *This list is not all inclusive; please seek medical advice for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning*

### 2 **Contacting the health department**

- If a worker calls in ill, is found to be ill when screened on arrival, or becomes ill while at work, the workplace supervisor should contact the state or local health department for guidance in accordance with health department policies and requirements
- The health department will need to know who has had close contact with the Covid-19 positive person while they were at the workplace; fellow workers will need to be notified of their possible workplace exposure to Covid-19, while confidentiality about individual workers is maintained as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)



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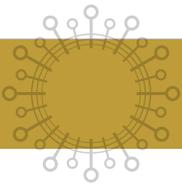
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### 3 Cleaning and disinfecting the workplace

- Food facilities need to follow cleaning protocols set by local and state health departments; in general, they should do the following:
  - Increase air circulation in the area, following applicable guidelines for food-service establishments
  - Use recommended PPE for cleaning and disinfecting
  - Clean and disinfect all areas used by the sick person (for example, work stations, offices, bathrooms and other common areas)
  - Clean and disinfect shared electronic equipment (for example, touch screens, keyboards and mice, remote controls) 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
- It is not necessary to recall or destroy food products that the worker may have handled
- Consult CDC guidance for disinfecting the workplace after having a worker who tests positive or is ill with Covid-19

### 4 Return to work

- The decision to discontinue home isolation for persons with confirmed or suspected Covid-19 should be made in the context of local circumstances; options include (1) a symptom-based strategy based on time since illness onset and time since recovery or (2) a test-based strategy
  - Symptom-based strategy
    - Persons with Covid-19 who have symptoms and were directed to care for themselves at home may discontinue isolation under the following conditions:
      - At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) and
      - At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared



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- Test-based strategy
  - Persons who have Covid-19 who have symptoms and were directed to care for themselves at home may discontinue isolation under the following conditions:
    - Resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and
    - Improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) and
    - 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  $\geq 24$  hours apart (total of two negative specimens)

**Note:** *There have been reports of prolonged detection of RNA without direct correlation to viral culture*
  - The decision for workers to discontinue isolation and return to work should be made in consultation with their healthcare provider and state or local health department

<sup>1</sup> Adapted from: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/disposition-in-home-patients.html>