FAQ for Employees with Symptoms of an Acute Respiratory Infection and Employees without Symptoms Who have been Diagnosed with COVID-19

I’m sick with an acute respiratory infection. What should I do?
- You should remain at home. You cannot work while ill with an acute respiratory infection.
- Call your manager to let them know.
- If you need medical care, you should contact your primary physician. If urgent care is needed, please call the urgent care clinic or emergency department before coming in.

Can I get tested for COVID-19?
- Employees who call out sick with an acute respiratory infection, including the following symptoms (fever, new cough, new shortness of breath, sore throat, body aches), may sign up for testing.
- Please note that there is NO role for testing staff without symptoms at this time.
- If you would like to be tested, fill out our UW COVID19 Testing Survey. The survey will ask for your employee identification number (EIN) or birthdate for identification. Your EIN is on the back of your ID badge or you can find it in WorkDay.
- After you complete the survey, you will be contacted to schedule an appointment for one of our UW Medicine Employee COVID 19 Testing Clinics; they will tell you where to go and when to arrive.
- The clinic will test you for COVID-19 only.
- Please note that all testing is done by appointment only; no walk-ins will be accepted.

Employees who are ill and interested in testing at the SCCA/Fred Hutch Employee Clinic can click here SCCA Testing Survey.

Is testing for COVID-19 mandatory? No.

Is testing confidential? If your test is positive, we will inform your manager that a staff member on their unit tested positive for COVID-19 without revealing identifying information. We do this so we can advise exposed co-workers to monitor closely for symptoms.

I tested negative for COVID-19. When can I return to work? You may return to work when you are asymptomatic for 24 hours.

I tested positive for COVID-19 and have had symptoms. When can I return to work?
- If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you should remain under home isolation precautions for a minimum of 7 days from symptom onset AND you must be symptom-free for 72 hours before you can return to work.
- In addition, when you return to work, you should wear a UW Medicine-supplied face mask at all times while in the healthcare facility until 14 days after symptom onset.

I recently had a fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, or muscle aches, but I did NOT get tested for COVID-19. When can I return to work?
- You should remain under home isolation precautions until you are symptom-free for 72 hours.
- In addition, when you return to work, you should wear a facemask at all times while in the healthcare facility until 14 days after symptom onset.

I tested positive for COVID-19 but do not have any symptoms. When can I return to work?
If you have tested positive for COVID-19 and do not have any symptoms, you should remain under home isolation precautions for 10 days since the date of your first positive COVID-19 test.