



SENECA COUNTY GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT

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Health Commissioner*

COVID-19 Information for Employers 3-20-2020

*****Guidance will be updated and released frequently, as this is a rapidly evolving situation.*****

Frequently Asked Questions

What if my employee thinks he/she has been exposed to COVID-19?

Unless the employee has been exposed to someone who is known to have COVID-19 or one of the employee's household contacts has symptoms of COVID-19, nothing special needs to be done.

What if an employee calls in or shows signs of a fever/flu?

Any person who is sick should stay home. If an employee reports to work sick or develops symptoms after beginning her shift, she should be sent home. If symptoms are consistent with COVID-19 illness, the employee should stay home for fourteen days. As long as symptoms are mild, they should be managed with over the counter medication. If symptoms worsen, she should contact her health care provider.

What if an employee is currently being tested and results are not back yet?

When a person is being tested for COVID-19, that person is to be quarantined in their home until the test results come back. The person's household contacts should also be quarantined in the home.

What if an employee tests positive for COVID-19?

If a person tests positive for COVID-19, it is reported to the Health Department in the county or city of the person's residence. COVID-19 is a class A reportable disease, and must be immediately reported to the local health department, which in turn must report to Ohio Department of Health (ODH) immediately. The Health Department will call the person and conduct an interview. Information collected during the interview will include place of work and persons that might have been within 6 feet of the person for a sustained length of time. The Health Department will be responsible to contact these individuals and notify them of the requirement to quarantine for 14 days. The person who actually tested positive for COVID-19 is eligible to return to work when *all* of the following conditions are met:

- At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery, defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and** improvement of respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); **and**,
- At least 7 days have passed since the symptoms first appeared.

Depending on the circumstances of the situation, it may be appropriate to shut down part or all of the business temporarily for cleaning and disinfection of areas where one or more infected individuals have worked, or it may be necessary to suspend operations due to insufficient staffing while multiple employees are

quarantined or isolated. For more information on a specific situation, feel free to contact the Seneca County General Health District at 419-447-3691 or the ODH Coronavirus Hotline at 1-833-4ASKODH.

Additional Information

Businesses should be prepared to deal with exposure to COVID-19 in the workplace. A specific person or position should be designated to be the main contact for infected or exposed employees and the health department. Seneca County General Health District, along with the CDC and Ohio Department of Health recommends employers do not require a health care provider's note to validate the illness or return to work of employees with acute respiratory illness. Health care providers may be too busy to be able to provide such documentation in a timely manner, and visiting a doctor's office for a note could lead to additional exposure to COVID-19 or other communicable diseases like influenza.

As of March 19, 2020, employers are encouraged to check the body temperature of all employees when they enter the workplace at the beginning of each shift. Any employee with a body temperature of 100.4 or higher is considered to have a fever, and should be sent home. Employers should consider the use of a non-contact infrared forehead thermometer, since it can detect body temperature at the forehead without touching the body. A secondary option would be a temporal scanner thermometer, which can be disinfected after it is touched to the forehead of each employee. A third alternative is to provide each employee with his or her own oral thermometer.

Resources

Benefits for quarantined or isolated employees who cannot work from home and do not have the benefit of paid leave - <https://unemployment.ohio.gov/PublicSelfServiceChoice.html>

[COVID-19 Checklist for Businesses and Employers](#)

ODH Coronavirus Page – coronavirus.ohio.gov

ODH Coronavirus Hotline – 1-833-4 ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634)

CDC Coronavirus Page - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

WHO Coronavirus Page - <https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus>

SCGHD Website – <https://www.senecahealthdept.org>

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