



COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions for General Employers*

*Does not apply to health care workers or first responders

Which Employees Need to Be Excluded from the Workplace?

- Employees who have any symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough, shortness of breath), with or without a positive test result.
- Employees who have been in close contact with someone who develops symptoms of COVID-19. This includes contact with an individual 48 hours before they show symptoms. Close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of a person for a prolonged period of time (approximately 15 minutes or longer).
- Employees who have recently traveled from a State, country or cruise listed in the CDC's travel advisories.

How Long Should an Employee Be Excluded From the Workplace?

- Employees who are well should be instructed to remain at home for 14 days after their last known exposure to self-monitor for symptoms. This includes taking their temperature twice a day in the morning and evening.
- Employees who are well, but live with someone who has COVID-19 or symptoms of COVID-19 should remain at home for 14 days after the last symptomatic household member has recovered. Recovered is defined as 72 hours without fever (if present) and at least 7 days past onset of symptoms. Other symptoms such as cough should also be improved.
- Employees who are sick should remain at home until recovered. Recovered is defined as 72 hours without fever and at least 7 days past onset of symptoms.

What if an Employee has COVID-19 and Has Recently Been at Work?

- Employers should first determine the timeline for when the symptomatic employee became ill. Exposure risk begins 48 hours prior to symptom onset. All employees that had close contact with the sick employee during this time frame should be sent home and remain at home for 14 days past the last known exposure to self-monitor for symptoms. Close contacts are defined as being within 6 feet of a symptomatic person for a prolonged period of time. Employers should maintain cleaning and disinfecting procedures at all times.

What Do I Do if an Employee Becomes Sick at Work?

- The employee should be immediately isolated from others and sent home to self-manage symptoms or for medical treatment through their medical provider as

appropriate. True emergencies should be directed to 9-1-1. Emergency personnel should be informed that the employee is experiencing COVID-like symptoms.

What Can Employers Do to Stop the Spread of Coronavirus at the Workplace?

- Distance employees as much as possible, but at least 6 feet apart.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
- Allow for telecommuting as much as possible.
- Reinforce hand washing, hygiene practices, social distancing, and staying at home when feeling ill.
- Be flexible about sick time policies.

What if Employees have Questions about Coronavirus?

- Encourage employees to access the following resources for information on symptoms, testing, and other guidelines:

Web:

www.townofstratford.com/coronavirus
<https://portal.ct.gov/coronavirus>
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Hotlines:

Yale Health – 1-833-275-9644
Hartford Healthcare – 1-860-972-8100
CT 2-1-1

General questions can be directed to the Stratford Health Department:

health@townofstratford.com
203-385-4090

***Note:** These guidelines are subject to change as the CDC learns additional information about the virus.