



Emergency Medical Services Agency

URGENT

Bulletin 2023-02 – March 9th, 2023 – Replacing Bulletin 2022-07

PLEASE POST

COVID Positive Close Contacts and Symptom Testing Procedures for EMS Personnel

Please use the following guidelines for testing your EMS staff when they are identified as Close Contacts to a COVID positive case and/or are experiencing COVID symptoms.

Unvaccinated COVID weekly screening testing is no longer required.

- **For symptomatic staff:**
 - Wear a mask.
 - Go home.
 - Test via antigen testing at first sign of symptoms (Day 0).
 - If positive, isolate at home for a minimum of 5 additional days.
 - If on or after Day 5 symptoms are improved and no fever has been present for at least 24 hours, repeat antigen test.
 - If positive, continue to isolate through Day 10. You may return to work on Day 11, if symptoms have improved and no fever has been present for at least 24 hours.
 - If negative, you may return to work on or after Day 6. Continue to wear a mask until Day 10.
 - If negative, repeat antigen test at 48 hours.
 - If negative, you are cleared of COVID. However, you are directed to stay home until symptoms improve and no fever is present for at least 24 hours.
 - If positive, isolate at home at least through Day 5.
 - If on or after Day 5 symptoms are improved and no fever has been present for at least 24 hours, repeat antigen test.

Continued: COVID Close Contact and Symptom Testing Procedures for EMS Personnel

- If positive, continue to isolate through Day 10. You may return to work on Day 11, if symptoms have improved and no fever has been present for at least 24 hours.
 - If negative, you may return to work on or after Day 6. Continue to wear a mask until Day 10.
- **For Close Contacts (someone who was unmasked and less than 6 feet away from a confirmed COVID positive case for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period):**
 - Wear a mask for 10 days following exposure.
 - If symptomatic, test immediately and follow the steps above for symptomatic staff.
 - If asymptomatic:
 - Test via antigen testing on Day 1, 3 and 5 post exposure.
 - If positive, isolate at home through Day 5 post positive test. You may return to work on Day 6 post positive test with a negative antigen test.
 - If negative, no additional testing is required unless symptoms develop.
- **For outbreaks (3 or more COVID positive staff members at a single location):**
 - **Notify EMS Coordinator, Rachel Oakley, at roakley@co.slo.ca.us.**
 - All staff should wear a mask.
 - All staff at the location test via antigen testing on Day 1, 3 and 5 post exposure.
 - If additional positives emerge, repeat antigen testing for all staff twice weekly, until you have no additional positives over a 7 day span.
 - When there are no additional positives over a 7 day span, your location is cleared of outbreak status.
 - Notify and confirm with EMS Coordinator, Rachel Oakley, of cleared status by reporting the last positive test date and the following two negative test dates over a 7 day span.

If you have any questions, please contact Rachel Oakley at roakley@co.slo.ca.us.