



Emergency Medical Services Agency

URGENT

Bulletin 2024-01 - REVISED March 5th, 2024 - Update to 2023-02

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.

- **For symptomatic staff:**
 - Wear a mask.
 - Go home.
 - Test via antigen testing at the first sign of symptoms (Day 0).
 - If positive, stay home.
 - You can return to work if 24 hours have passed with no fever, without the use of fever-reducing medicines, and symptoms are mild and improving.
 - Wear a mask for 10 days from the date of the first COVID positive test.
 - If negative, repeat antigen testing after 24-48 hours.
 - If negative, you are cleared of COVID. You can return to work if 24 hours have passed with no fever, without the use of fever-reducing medicines, and symptoms are mild and improving.
 - A mask is recommended if any symptoms of a respiratory illness are present.
 - If positive, stay home. You can return to work if 24 hours have passed with no fever, without the use of fever-reducing medicines, and symptoms are mild and improving.
 - Wear a mask until 10 days have passed since COVID symptoms began.

- **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):**
 - If symptomatic, test immediately and follow the steps above for symptomatic staff.
 - If asymptomatic:
 - Test only once via antigen testing between Days 3-5 post-exposure.
 - If positive, wear a mask indoors for 10 days from the date of the first positive test.
 - Consider excluding positive asymptomatic staff from work.
 - 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 indoors throughout the duration of the outbreak.
 - All staff at the location test only once via antigen testing between Days 3-5 post-exposure.
 - If additional positives emerge, repeat antigen testing for all staff once per week 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 cleared status with EMS Coordinator, Rachel Oakley, by reporting the last positive test date and the following negative test date over a 7 day span.
 - **Employees that refuse to test and have symptoms must be excluded from work for at least 24 hours from symptom onset, and can return to work if 24 hours have passed with no fever, without use of fever reducing medicines, and symptoms are mild and improving. Wear a mask indoors for 10 days from the date of first sign of symptoms.**
 - **Consider excluding employees who refuse to test and are asymptomatic.**

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