

To: All Catholic Health & Trinity Associates

From: William Pryor / EVP & Chief Administrative Officer
Kevin Shiley MD / Medical Director of Infection Prevention & Control

Re: Associate Health COVID Testing Protocols / Questions & Answers

Date: November 20, 2020

Below are the most frequent questions the Associate Health COVID Call Center receives. We will continue to update this document to address new issues or concerns you may have, as well as ensure you have the most current information as it relates to the COVID-19 virus.

SYMPTOMATIC ASSOCIATES:	
<p>Q:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If I am experiencing COVID symptoms, should I be tested? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How do I schedule a COVID test? ○ What should I do if my COVID test result is negative? ○ What should I do if my COVID test result is positive? 	<p>A:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, if your symptoms are those as defined in the COVID Caregiver Testing Policy. • By calling the Associate Health COVID Call Center at 716.447.6418. • You should not return to work until your symptoms have resolved and you have not used pain relief medication for 24 hours. • Associates who do not work/provide services in a Long Term Care site must self-isolate for 10 days from date of testing and be verbally cleared by ARTC Associate Health prior to returning to work • Due to NYS requirements, associates who work/provide services in a Long Term Care site must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Self-isolate for 14 days from date of testing ○ Be re-tested in 14 days, and achieve a negative result ○ You will then be verbally cleared by ARTC Associate Health to return to work.
ASYMPTOMATIC ASSOCIATES:	
<p>Q:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If I live with someone who has tested positive for COVID, should I be tested? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How do I schedule a COVID test? ○ Can I work while waiting for my results? 	<p>A:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If it is not feasible for you to self-quarantine for 14 days from the date of exposure to a confirmed positive household member due to your direct patient care role, then yes, you should be tested. • By calling the Associate Health COVID Call Center at 716.447.6418. • No, you will need to remain out of work until your results are known.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What should I do if my COVID test result is positive? ○ What should I do if my COVID test result is negative? ○ If my job would allow me to self-quarantine for 14 days, is it possible to work from home? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you do not work or provide services in a Long Term Care site, you must self-isolate for 10 days from date of testing and be verbally cleared by ARTC Associate Health prior to returning to work • Due to NYS requirements, if you work or provide services in a Long Term Care site, you must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Self-isolate for 14 days from date of testing ○ Be re-tested in 14 days and achieve a negative COVID test result ○ You will then be verbally cleared by ARTC Associate Health to return to work. • If negative, you will be able to return to work, but you will be required to be re-tested in 5-7 days from the date of your initial COVID negative test. • While at work you must always wear a mask, social distance yourself from other as much as possible, including not eating or drinking with other individuals until fourteen (14) days have passed from the date of the COVID positive household exposure. • Yes, but you would need to verify with your manager if it is feasible for you to work remotely. • If it is, you would to discuss how to address your work responsibilities, how to report your work time, etc. while working remotely.
<p>Q:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If I <u>WAS NOT</u> wearing the appropriate PPE and a co-worker or patient tests positive, should I be tested for COVID? ○ Can I work while waiting for my test results? ○ What should I do if my COVID test is positive? 	<p>A:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you were in direct and prolonged contact with your co-worker or patient within the last 10 days, without the use of appropriate PPE, then yes, you should be tested. • No, you will need to remain out of work until your results are known. • If you do not work or provide services in a Long Term Care site, you must self-isolate for 10 days from date of testing and be verbally cleared by ARTC Associate Health prior to returning to work • Due to NYS requirements, if you work or provide services in a Long Term Care site, you must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Self-isolate for 14 days from date of testing ○ Be re-tested in 14 days and achieve a negative COVID test result ○ You will then be verbally cleared by ARTC Associate Health to return to work.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What should I do if my COVID test is negative? ○ If my job role would allow me to self-quarantine for 14 days, is it possible to work from home 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If negative, you will be able to go back to work, but you will be required to be re-tested in 5-7 days from the date of your initial COVID negative test. • While at work you must always wear a mask, social distance yourself from other as much as possible, including not eating or drinking with other individuals until fourteen (14) days have passed from the date of the COVID positive patient or co-worker exposure. • Yes, but you would need to verify with your manager if it is feasible for you to work remotely. • If it is, then you would to discuss how to address your work responsibilities, how to report your work time, etc. while working remotely.
<p>Q:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If I <u>WAS</u> wearing the appropriate PPE and a co-worker or patient tests positive, should I be tested for COVID? ○ What should I do if testing is not warranted? ○ What if I start to develop COVID symptoms? 	<p>A:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No, an asymptomatic associate wearing the appropriate PPE does not meet the definition of an exposure and therefore does not warrant immediate COVID testing • You should monitor yourself for COVID symptoms on a daily basis. • You should continue to wear a mask at all times, practice good social distancing, and good hand hygiene. • Any time an associate believes they are experiencing COVID symptoms; they should contact the Associate Health COVID Call Center (716.447.6418) to arrange for testing.
<p>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:</p>	
<p>Q:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does it mean to self-isolate? 	<p>A:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It requires you to stay home, out of the community, isolating yourself from family/household members as much as possible. • You should always wear a mask and practice good hand hygiene (washing your hands). • If using a shared bathroom, it must be sanitized after each use.
<p>Q:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does it mean to have direct and prolonged exposure to a COVID positive person? 	<p>A:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An exposure is defined as being within 6 feet of a COVID positive person for more than 15 minutes over a 24 hour period without the use of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).
<p>Q:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is appropriate PPE? 	<p>A:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At work, your activity determines what would be

	<p>appropriate PPE for you to carry out your job responsibilities safety.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>To determine if you were wearing the appropriate PPE at the time of an exposure please review the Exposure Testing Table below.</u> ○ Depending on the scenario, this could be a surgical mask, an N95 mask, surgical gown, gloves and/or eye protection. ● In the community, you should wear a face covering when interacting with anyone outside of your immediate household.
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For more information, click on the link below to the CDC guidance on potential COVID-19 exposure for healthcare workers:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assesment-hcp.html>

Exposure Testing Table

Exposure	Type of PPE Used by Associate	Patient Masked?	Associate Testing Indicated ?
Prolonged Close Contact ¹	None	No	Yes
Prolonged Close Contact ¹	None	Yes	Yes
Prolonged Close Contact ¹	Mask	Yes	No
Prolonged Close Contact ¹	Mask	No	Yes
Prolonged Close Contact ¹	Mask and Eye Protection	No	No
Aerosol Generating Procedure-any duration (e.g. BIPAP, CPR, Suctioning, Intubation)	Gown, gloves, N95, Eye protection ("Full PPE")	N/A	No
Aerosol Generating Procedure (e.g. BIPAP, CPR, Suctioning, Intubation) -- any duration	Anything besides "full" PPE	N/A	Yes
Brief Contact, no Aerosol procedures	None, Some or Full	Yes or No	No

1. Close Contact: 15 minutes or more within six feet of a person within a 24 hour period