



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
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March 31, 2020

TO: All DOC Staff

FROM: Stephen Sinclair, Secretary

SUBJECT: Screening Follow Up

Thank you all for your continued dedication to our mission during this extremely challenging time. I am immensely proud of the work being done across the state within all of our divisions to maintain our operations and keep everyone safe.

We continue our efforts to return healthy employees to work. Between initial implementation of active screening protocols on March 14 and the implementation of the secondary screening process effective on March 22, many employees were denied access to their worksite, some of whom are still awaiting their secondary screening. If you're a supervisor of an impacted employee, you're encouraged to reach out to them. We recognize that employees, who have been waiting for follow-up, may be feeling anxious.

The supervisor will assist with next steps, which depending on the date of screening, may include:

- Allowing the employee to return to work if:
 - 14 or more days have passed since initial screening;
 - The employee is symptom free; AND
 - The employee is able to pass the **revised** [active screening protocols](#).

OR

- Obtaining the employee's current contact information for follow-up by a DOC medical professional if the above criteria cannot be met.

Additional updates and reminders for all employees:

- Employees who are denied access at their worksite during the active screening will be contacted by a DOC medical professional and asked a series of **revised [secondary screening questions](#)**.
- Employees who had experienced a fever, but received a **negative** COVID-19 test result may be able to return to work if **symptom-free for at least 72 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication**.
- Employees who have a **confirmed** COVID-19 test result **must wait until 14 days after symptoms resolve** before returning to work, regardless of the release from a healthcare provider.

In an effort to maintain staffing levels of our healthcare workers within the Health Services Divisions, we've developed [Return to Work for Healthcare Providers](#) guidance and updated the [Active Screening Questions](#) with the following relevant information:

Q 6) Within the last 14 days, have you had close contact, without the use of appropriate PPE, with someone who is currently sick with suspected or confirmed COVID-19? *

**Facilities identified as being at critical staffing levels in health services may have healthcare workers authorized by the HQ Emergency Operations Center to enter the facility under the following guidelines:*

- *As long as they remain asymptomatic;*
- *Self-monitor symptoms as outlined in the [Return to Work for Healthcare Providers in Designated Shortage Areas](#) guidance; AND*
- *Wear a surgical mask at entry and at all times while on facility grounds*
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It is important that the revised active screening questionnaire is used at all facilities as it includes updated information regarding healthcare providers.

We are committed to providing a safe and healthy work environment for all employees. The screening protocols are just one of the measures we've taken to combat the spread of COVID-19.

Please continue to be kind to one another, practice social distancing, use proper hand washing etiquette and hygiene, and stay home if you're sick. We're all in this together.

SS:lk