

**Mission:**

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



**Ron DeSantis**  
Governor

**Scott A. Rivkees, MD**  
State Surgeon General

**Vision:** To be the **Healthiest State** in the Nation

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## **Ending Isolation and Precautions for Persons with COVID-19**

Growing evidence supports ending isolation and precautions for persons with COVID-19 using a symptom-based strategy rather than a test-based strategy. This update includes recent evidence of the period of isolation and precautions recommended to prevent spread of COVID-19 to others, while limiting prolonged isolation and unnecessary use of laboratory testing resources.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/duration-isolation.html>

The most critical changes are these:

1. Except for rare situations, a test-based strategy (acquiring a negative test result) is no longer recommended to determine when an individual with COVID-19 infection is no longer infectious and can no longer spread the virus to others.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/testing-overview.html>

2. Symptom-based criteria were modified as follows:

a. Changed from “at least 72 hours” to now “at least 24 hours” have passed since last fever without the use of fever reducing medications

b. Changed from “improvement in respiratory symptoms” to “improvement in symptoms,” to address the growing list of symptoms (nausea, diarrhea, etc.) associated with COVID-19.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/disposition-in-home-patients.html>

Employers should utilize the new symptom-based criteria to determine if an employee can return to work rather than the test-based strategy (requiring a negative test result to return to work). The test-based strategy has proven not as effective and an unnecessary use of testing materials. The symptom-based strategy is more effective in determining a person’s probability of spreading COVID-19 and if they are safe to return to work.