

MTAHQ Safety - COVID-19 Guidance FAQ – 10/4/22

Q1. What is the flowchart for Employee COVID Exposure, Symptoms or Positive Test Guidance?

Answer: The flowchart (updated 8/23/2022) was created to provide a more detailed visual display of the guidance issued by the CDC. Steps on how to follow the flowchart are addressed in questions below.

Q2: What is the phone number of the MTA COVID-19 Hotline?

Answer: (646) 252-1010

Q3. I'm feeling sick with COVID symptoms. What should I do?

Answer: **Leave your workplace / Stay home** and take a PCR or Home/Rapid Antigen test:

1. If the result of a PCR test is negative, then return to work when feeling better. If the result of a Home/Rapid Antigen test is negative, take another test after 48 hours and if still negative, return to work when feeling better. There is no need to call the Hotline.
2. If the result is positive (PCR or Home/Rapid Antigen) and you have not recently recovered (≤ 90 days) from COVID, then you should call the Hotline and self-isolate for 5 days.
3. If you are recently recovered (within 90 days) and test positive:
 - a. If the test was a Home/Rapid Antigen test, call the Hotline and self-isolate for 5 days.
 - b. If the test was PCR, take a Home/Rapid Antigen test:
 - i. If this test is positive, call the Hotline and self-isolate for 5 days.
 - ii. If this test is negative, then take another test in 48 hours and if negative return to work when feeling better. If positive, then call the Hotline and self-isolate for 5 days.

Q4. I'm not feeling sick, but I've tested positive for COVID. What should I do?

Answer:

1. If you have not recently recovered from COVID, call the Hotline and self-isolate for 5 days and follow your respective departmental call-in procedures
2. If you have recently recovered (30 days since the start of your prior infection) from COVID, then there is no need to call the Hotline. You may remain at work and monitor for symptoms.
3. If you have recently recovered from COVID (31-90 days since the start of your prior infection):
 - a. If the test was a Home/Rapid Antigen test, call the Hotline and self-isolate for 5 days.
 - b. If the test was a PCR test, take a Home/Rapid Antigen test.
 - i. If the Home/Rapid Antigen test is positive, call the Hotline and self-isolate for 5 days.
 - ii. If the Home/Rapid Antigen test is negative, remain at work, wear a well-fitting mask and take another Home/Rapid Antigen test in 48 hours. If negative, return to work and monitor for symptoms. If positive, call the Hotline and self-isolate for 5 days.

Q5. I'm not feeling sick, but I've been exposed to someone whose has COVID (either close contact or in my household). What should I do?

Answer: Stay at work and wear a well-fitted mask for 5 days from the last day of exposure.

1. If you are recently recovered (30 days since the start of your prior infection), remain at work, wear a well-fitting mask for an additional 5 days and monitor for symptoms.
2. If you are recently recovered (31-90 days since the start of your prior infection), take a Home/Rapid Antigen test.
 - a. If the Home/Rapid Antigen test is negative, remain at work, wear a well-fitting mask for 5 full days, and monitor for symptoms.
3. If you are not recently recovered, take a PCR or Home/Rapid Antigen test on day 6:
 - a. If you test negative, remain at work, wear a well-fitted mask for 5 more days and monitor for symptoms.
 - b. If you test positive, call the Hotline and self-isolate for 5 days.

Q6. If I have tested positive and been informed by my doctor or the COVID Hotline to self-isolate for 5 days do I need to get clearance from my doctor or an MTA OHS nurse to return to work?

Answer: **NO** You can return to work after the isolation period if you are asymptomatic or if symptoms are resolving, and you are fever free for 24 hours. OHS will not be contacting employees to return to work. When you return to work you should wear a well-fitting mask for an additional 5 days.

Q7. If I test positive for COVID and need to self-isolate, can I use New York State COVID Paid Sick Leave (NYSCPSL)?

Answer: Currently, a NYS law allows employees to receive paid leave (without using their accrued leave balances) in limited circumstances. If NYSCPSL is not available, you may be able to use accrued leave balances. If you have specific questions regarding your eligibility, please contact your respective HR/People representative.

Q8. Can I get time off or paid if I receive the COVID vaccine or a COVID Booster shot?

Answer: **YES**, all employees are entitled to 4 hours of leave during work hours (without using their accrued leave balances). Represented, operating employees may receive 2 hours pay during non-work hours. Proof of vaccination is required for vaccination leave/pay.

Q9. Can I get paid leave if I have side effects from the COVID vaccine or COVID Booster shot?

Answer: You must use your available sick leave balances.

Q10. Can I telework while I am in isolation from COVID?

Answer: Based on supervisor approval, employees who are able to telework based on their job duties, can do so during isolation periods.

Q11. When should I call the Hotline?

Answer: Generally, you should call the Hotline after you have tested positive for COVID, unless you have recently recovered from COVID within the last 30 days. For your specific case refer to Q3, Q4, or Q5 above.