**Week 3 Q&A**

Q: Do we test employees that have had COVID if it has been within 90 days?

A: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/return-to-work.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fhealthcare-facilities%2Fhcp-return-work.html>

Q: Do all positive COVID-19 test results have to be reported?

A: **Reporting Rapid Antigen Test Results for SARS-CoV-2 to Health Departments and Patients**

Yes. A CLIA-certified laboratory or testing site must report rapid antigen diagnostic test results to the local, state, tribal, or territory health department in accordance with Public Law 116-136, § 18115(a), the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, which requires “every laboratory that performs or analyzes a test that is intended to detect SARS-CoV-2 or to diagnose a possible case of COVID-19” to report the results of each such test. Antigen test results that are reported to public health departments must be clearly distinguished from other COVID-19 tests, such as RT-PCR tests and antibody tests.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/resources/antigen-tests-guidelines.html>

A: **A test-based strategy is no longer recommended (except as noted below) because, in the majority of cases, it results in excluding from work HCP who continue to shed detectable SARS-CoV-2 RNA but are no longer infectious.**

Q: What are the recommendations for employees returning to work?

A: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/return-to-work.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fhealthcare-facilities%2Fhcp-return-work.html>

Q: One of our staff members had a positive POC Test-she immediately went and received a PCR test which was negative. Currently, she is off work. [Can she return to work?]

A: The “gold standard” for clinical diagnostic detection of SARS-CoV-2 remains RT-PCR.

Q: Can we still have dogs/cats in the nursing home?

A: [We are working an answer to this question]

Q: What is the CDC definition of a fever?

A: \*Fever is either measured temperature >100.0oF or subjective fever. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/long-term-care.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fhealthcare-facilities%2Fprevent-spread-in-long-term-care-facilities.html>

Q: Do you have resources for the flu vaccine?

A: Click on PDF link below for the “Influenza Toolkit for All Provider Types”



Q: So much information is being released. How do we keep up on testing requirements?

A: Click on PDF link below for “COVID-19 Testing in Nursing Home Compendium”

 

Q: What are the CMS guidelines for residents leaving the nursing home for the holidays?

A: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/covid-facility-holiday-recommendations.pdf>

Q: Where do we access information regarding the state vaccine plan?

A: <https://oklahoma.gov/covid19/vaccine-information.html>