

COVID Season 3 - Myth Busters

- ❖ **Medic stopped doing risk/exposure assessments on COVID+ patient transports-** False, we still track all known COVID+ patient transports and who transported them each time but only do the risk assessment for employees who did not wear proper PPE. If you had a PPE failure during a suspected or known COVID+ encounter please reach out to the on duty supervisor for documentation.
- ❖ **Medic no longer does contact tracing on COVID+ employees-** False, we do our best with the employee who tests positive to trace all last contacts 48 hours previous to symptom onset and look through EPRO for that same amount of time. If we know you were possibly exposed you are emailed a symptom tracker and follow-up instructions.
- ❖ **Employees are on their own if they develop symptoms-** False, we encourage you to reach out to your direct supervisor, or the supervisor on duty. They will contact Jackie, Shauna and Jamie so that one of them can reach out to you for follow-up information and help you locate a testing site.
- ❖ **I don't need to tell Medic that I have symptoms or am getting testing on my own-** False, to protect our patients and our fellow coworkers we need to know if you are sick or are seeking testing so we can give you follow-up instructions.
- ❖ **Someone in my household has COVID now I am going to be quarantined-** False, Medic will coordinate testing with you before each "tour" of shifts and closely monitor you for symptoms.
- ❖ **Medic has testing onsite-** True, however due to supply shortages we only test those who are living with a COVID+ person or a high risk of onset of symptoms (example: sitting in break area with other employees eating and without masks for extended period of time same day as onset)
- ❖ **I have COVID and don't know how I will get paid-** HR will evaluate leave options for you to include the County approved Emergency Leave. If this has been exhausted, there are additional options to include borrowing leave, or using personal time. If the employee exhausts available leaves, HR can go over other options for the employee.
- ❖ **I'm out of my 80-hour COVID-19 time, I'm out of luck.** – False, we were fortunate to have funding from the County for Emergency Leave, and a tax relief for the Federal Leave, however neither of these options have been re-instituted. We are currently reviewing what additional benefits we can provide outside of the options we've listed.
- ❖ **CDC guidance says I can return to work after 5 days-** Due to the close contact employees have with each other while on the job and our care of immunocompromised patients we have retained a 10-day isolation period for employees who test positive for COVID. We also closely monitor all employees to make sure that not only are they out of isolation but also well enough to return to the activities required in their job duties before placing them back on the schedule (please communicate if you are unwell after isolation period is over). If an increase in the availability of COVID tests were to occur, isolation periods may be shortened given a negative test.
- ❖ **PPE guidelines are no longer in place-** False, all employees should still have PPE in place for initial approach and change to N95 if EIDS+, confirmed COVID+, or any facility that is high risk for COVID.
- ❖ **Why do I have to be out pending PCR results?** Testing is typically performed for symptomatic employees or those living with COVID+ family members, so in order to prevent the spread of infection, employees are to remain out of work pending results.