

COVID-19 and Food Employees

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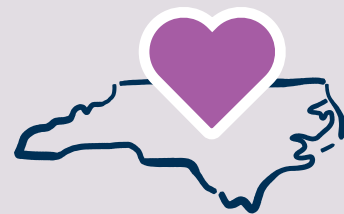
Division of Public Health, Food Protection and Facilities Branch
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services



NC DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES

Symptoms of COVID-19

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea



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Communicable Disease Law

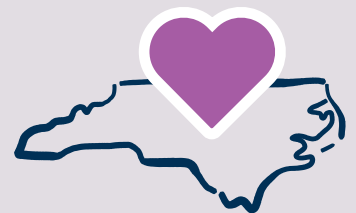
- COVID-19 pandemic is not regulated through Food Code, or 15A NCAC 18A .2600 rules
- Permits cannot be suspended, no intent to suspend or immediate suspension
- Local Health Directors have authority under Communicable Disease Law
- LHD use imminent health hazard, isolation and quarantine law
- Up to the LHD to determine which staff are used for CD law



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Employee Screening

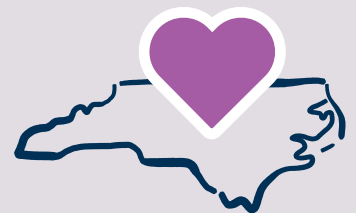
- Have you had close contact (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes) in the last 14 days with someone diagnosed with COVID-19, or have you been advised by a health department employee that you should be in quarantine?
- Since you last worked, have you had any of these symptoms?
 - Fever
 - Chills
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - New cough
 - New loss of taste or smell



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Symptomatic Employees

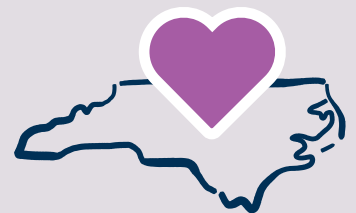
- If employees arrive symptomatic or develop symptoms during the day, they should be excluded immediately
- Have a plan for how and where
- Prepare to clean and disinfect areas where employees separate
- Employee should follow up with healthcare professional
- Employees remain out of work until test results are received



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Key Terms

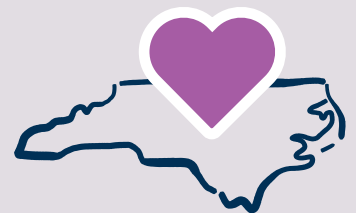
- Isolation: Separates sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick.
- Quarantine: Separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick.



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If an Employee Tests Positive

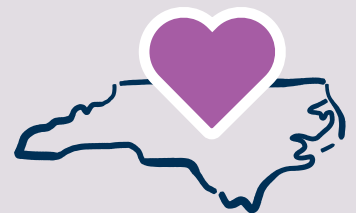
- Test results take between 2-10 days to be reported
- Employees cannot work while waiting for results
- Local health department will attempt to contact an individual within 24 hours of positive results being received.
- Contact tracers reach out within 24 hours as well



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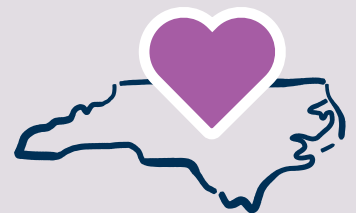
Contact Tracing for Positive Employees

- Contact tracers reach out within 24 hours of positive result
- Positive case should share all close contacts
- Close contact means within 6 feet of a positive case for 15 minutes, does not have to be consecutive
- 3 exposures of 5 minutes within a shift, or 10 times of close contact for 1-2 minutes could be considered close contact
- Both masked and unmasked interactions count for close contact



Close Contacts to a Positive Case

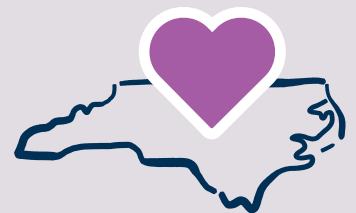
- NC DHHS is not allowing asymptomatic close contacts to continue to work
- CDC Critical Infrastructure Guidance not being applied to food service workers at this time
- All close contacts to a positive case must be excluded from work and self quarantine for 14 days from last exposure
- Close contact status can be work related or non-work related



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Returning to Work

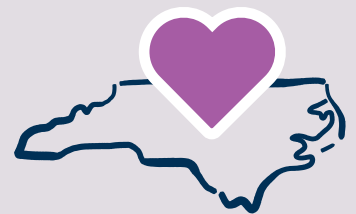
- Using testing strategy, employee can return to work after
 - Resolution of fever **and**
 - Improvement in respiratory symptoms **and**
 - Negative results of COVID-19 test from at least two consecutive respiratory specimens collected ≥ 24 hours apart (total of two negative specimens)



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Returning to Work

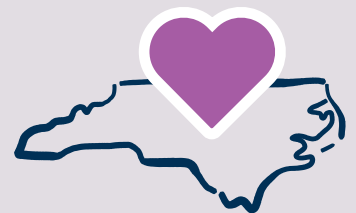
- Using symptom strategy employee can return to work after:
 - At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed *since recovery* defined as resolution of fever **and**
 - improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); **and,**
 - At least 10 days have passed *since symptoms first appeared*.



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Count on Me NC

- Collaborative Program between NCRLA, NCDHHS, NCSU, and Visit NC
- www.countonmenc.org



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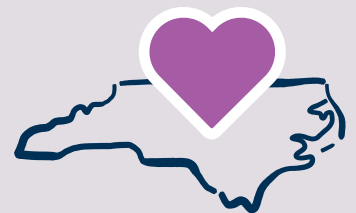
Questions?

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