

July 29, 2020

Dear Employers:

We know this is a time of great stress and confusion as well we all try to figure out what to do with COVID-19 in our lives. Please understand that at this time we Health Care Providers have to focus our attention on the sickest and most vulnerable patients. Much of our care is being delivered over the phone. Consequently, we cannot keep up with the demand for notes for work and requests for testing for COVID-19 for patients who have mild to moderate illness. For your convenience, I have listed the criteria identified by the Rhode Island Department of Health regarding when employees may return to work.

Anyone with signs of respiratory illness (cough, fever, congestion, new loss of smell or taste, headache, sore throat or shortness of breath) should be considered to potentially have COVID whether or not a test is done, and whether or not the test is positive. These people may return to work **ONLY WHEN BOTH OF THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA ARE MET**

**SYMPTOM IMPROVEMENT** over 24hours

**AND**

**10 DAY** have passed since the illness started

**Please note: the RIDOH does not recommend testing for any workers before return to work. .**

Additionally, anyone who lives in a home with someone who has tested positive for COVID should be quarantining in their home for 14 days from the last day of exposure of the family member's illness.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Cristina Pacheco, MD

Chief Medical Officer