
This document was updated November 9, 2020

View Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) [Epidemic Orders](#).

View Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA) [Emergency Orders](#)

View House Bills [6030](#), [6031](#), [6032](#) & [6101](#).

Social distancing

How do I determine a good social distance from another person?

Social distancing means keeping at least 6 feet apart from another person.

What does 6 feet look like?

Six feet is equivalent to two Golden Retrievers standing nose to tail, the average width of a sedan, the length of a sofa or mattress, or two arm lengths extended.

Screening

What screening questions should I ask my employees?

Employees must be asked about [symptoms](#) of fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea. Any symptom unusual for the person is reason for concern.

Employees must be asked if they have tested positive for COVID-19 or if they have been in contact with anyone suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 in the past 14 days.

Asking about domestic or domestic travel is not required.

Traveling

What are the requirements for workers who have traveled?

Workers traveling domestically or internationally may continue to work with no restrictions. There is currently no quarantine requirement in Michigan for travel. Many locations are experiencing a rise in COVID-19 cases. Follow safer practices while traveling, including wearing a mask, maintaining social distance, and cleaning your hands often. Be aware that going to a large social gathering like a wedding, funeral, or party; attending a mass gathering like a sporting event, concert, or parade; or being in crowds can put you at greater risk. Workplaces may set their own policies about travel.

Close contact

What does “close contact” mean?

A “close contact” is someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period, starting from 2 days before illness onset (or 2 days before the infected person was tested) until the time the infected person is isolated.

Close contacts must quarantine for 14 days past the last date of contact with the positive individual.

If someone is identified as a close contact, they will likely be contacted by the Health Department, and they must follow the guidance provided.

What are the quarantine rules for workers who had close contact to a COVID-19 positive individual?

Workers at a health care facility, first responders, child protective service employees, workers at child caring institutions, workers at adult foster care facilities, and workers at correctional facilities ([under HB 6032](#)) who have had close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual *may be allowed to continue to work* at the employer's discretion if they remain asymptomatic. These employees are encouraged to wear a mask at all times at work.

Other workers ([under CDC guidelines](#)) who have had close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual must quarantine at home for 14 days past the last date of close contact.

If someone had close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual, can they get a test and go back to work instead of being in quarantine for 14 days?

No. People infected with COVID-19 can take up to 14 days to develop symptoms. The individual must finish the full 14 days of quarantine, as we don't know where person is in their incubation period.

In addition, testing right after exposure is not recommended, as the virus can take several days to build up enough in the body to show positive on a test. Individuals should wait a minimum of 5 days after exposure before being tested, with the best window being 7-10 days after exposure. Testing too soon will most likely result in a false negative test - and a false sense of security.

Positive employees

One of our employees just tested positive for COVID-19. What should I do?

1. Instruct the positive employee to stay home and isolate.

If they had symptoms, they should not return to work for at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared **and** at least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication **and** symptoms have improved. If they did not have symptoms, they should not return to work for 10 days past the date the positive COVID-19 test was taken.

The local Health Department from the county in which this person lives will contact the individual to conduct contact tracing and to connect the individual with needed resources during isolation.

Note that under CDC guidance, the isolation timeframe may be extended for hospitalized, severely ill or severely immunocompromised cases. The positive employee must follow the guidance provided by the local health department.

IMPORTANT: We MUST protect the confidentiality of our employee. Legally, we cannot identify the employee by name. DO NOT disclose to other staff or third parties the name or other personal or health information of the employee who tested positive for COVID-19. This information can be shared with the Health Department, however.

2. Notify the Health Department of jurisdiction of the positive individual.

Depending on the county in which you live call either:

- District Health Department Number 2 (Alcona, Iosco, Ogemaw, Oscoda);
- District Health Department Number 4 (Alpena, Cheboygan, Montmorency, Presque Isle);
- Health Department of Northwest Michigan (Antrim, Emmet, Charlevoix, Otsego);
- Chippewa County Health Department (Pickford)

Cooperate with contact tracing efforts, including notification of potential contacts, such as workers, customers, or visitors who had close contact with the individual, while maintaining confidentiality required by state and federal law and regulations.

3. Determine when the person was at the facility during their potentially infectious period.

Determine the potential dates that others were at risk of exposure (if symptomatic, includes 48 hours before symptoms developed; if asymptomatic, includes 48 hours before the test was conducted).

4. Determine who was at the facility on the dates of potential exposure.

Check work schedules and verify with employees.

5. Determine who was a “close contact” of the positive person on the dates of potential exposure.

Close contact means closer than 6 feet for 15 minutes or more, cumulative over a 24-hour period, regardless of face coverings. Talk to staff and watch surveillance video, if available, to determine who met these criteria. These individuals will need to quarantine for 14 days following the last date of contact with the positive individual.

Notify these close contact individuals directly (while protecting the privacy of the positive person, and not naming them). Collect names, addresses, and phone numbers of these close contacts so you can provide them to the Health Department. Those individuals will be added to a contact tracing list, and the Health Department staff will reach out to them to provide more details about quarantine.

If a close contact develops symptoms, they should follow the return to work guidelines (10 days after symptoms started and 24 hours after fever has resolved and symptoms improved). They should also seek testing for COVID-19 if they develop symptoms.

6. Thoroughly clean and disinfect the facility.

Focus on equipment and other elements of the work environment of the employee, along with frequently touched surfaces and objects such as doorknobs/push bars, elevator buttons, restroom doors, etc. Use EPA-approved disinfectants and use according to label instructions. The facility may need to consider closing to accomplish this task.

7. Notify all potentially impacted people.

Inform other employees and those who may have had casual contact with the positive individual. Tell them there was a positive case associated with your facility (while protecting the privacy of the positive person, and not naming them), and indicating that any close contacts who were at higher risk of exposure have been identified and notified directly and, will be contacted by the Health Department. Any other individuals at the facility are considered lower risk – similar to any time you leave the house and go out in public. These lower risk individuals should self-monitor for symptoms and seek medical care and testing if they develop symptoms.

One of our employees has symptoms or is “suspected” of having COVID-19. What do we do?

We instruct the employee to stay home. Encourage the employee to be tested for COVID-19. Until results are available, the individual must isolate at home. If the employee chooses not to be tested, they should stay home for 10 days past the onset of their symptoms.

Thoroughly clean and disinfect equipment and other elements of the work environment of the employee, along with frequently touched surfaces and objects such as doorknobs/push bars, elevator buttons, restroom doors, etc. Use EPA-approved disinfectants and use according to label instructions.

Begin identifying co-workers and individuals with whom the employee may have had close contact, in the event the individual tests positive. Close contact means someone was closer than 6 feet for more than 15 minutes from an individual who is positive for COVID-19. It does not matter if the individuals were wearing face coverings. If the individual ends up testing positive, the exposed individuals identified as close contacts must quarantine at home for 14 days following the last date of close contact.

An employee’s family member has been diagnosed with COVID-19. What should I do?

If the employee has a household contact or close contact who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, the employee must quarantine at home for 14 days after the last date of close contact with the positive individual. The employee will likely be contacted by the Health Department for contact tracing. The individual must follow the guidance provided, which will likely be to quarantine for 14 days.

If an employee develops symptoms, they should seek testing and follow the return to work guidelines (10 days after symptoms started and 24 hours after fever has resolved and symptoms improved).

An employee has reported that they came into contact with someone rumored to be positive for COVID-19. What should I do?

Remember that we have “community spread” of COVID-19, which means there is an ongoing risk of exposure everywhere we go. It is critical to wear face coverings, and to practice social distancing and hand hygiene.

Try to find out more information about the potential exposure. How certain is the employee about the individual’s COVID-19 status? Was the person visibly ill? Did the employee have close contact with the individual, being closer than 6 feet from for more than 15 minutes?

In most cases, the employee should self-monitor for symptoms. They can also seek out COVID-19 testing. If the employee develops symptoms, they should follow the return to work guidelines (10 days after symptoms started and 24 hours after fever has resolved and symptoms improved). However, if the employee is contacted by the Health Department and is told they are a close contact and they need to quarantine, they must follow that guidance.

What do I do when my employee shows up to work ill or becomes ill at work?

If an employee comes to work ill or becomes ill while at work, they should be directed to go home immediately, even if their symptoms are mild. If they are having trouble breathing or cannot keep fluids down, have them contact their doctor right away. Encourage the employee to be tested for COVID-19. Until results are available, the individual must isolate at home. The employee must stay home for 10 days after symptoms started and 24 hours after fever has resolved and symptoms improved. Follow the guidelines for a positive worker if the individual ends up testing positive.

Thoroughly clean and disinfect equipment and other elements of the work environment of the employee, along with frequently touched surfaces and objects such as doorknobs/push bars, elevator buttons, restroom doors, etc. Use EPA-approved disinfectants and use according to label instructions.

What if an employee was already a close contact and was under quarantine, and has been exposed again by someone else? Do they need to quarantine for another 14 days?

Yes. If employees who completed quarantine are exposed to the virus again and are considered a close contact, they should quarantine for 14 days AGAIN.

Employees can return to work after they finish the 14-day quarantine. If they get sick or have symptoms while quarantined, they should isolate right away, call a doctor or healthcare provider, and get tested for COVID-19.

What if my employee tested positive, and is exposed again by someone else? Do they need to quarantine for another 14 days?

Maybe. Anyone who has had close contact with someone with COVID-19 and who meets the following criteria does **NOT** need to quarantine:

- Has COVID-19 illness within the previous 3 months **and**
- Has recovered **and**
- Remains without COVID-19 symptoms (for example, cough, shortness of breath)

Returning to work

If an employee tests positive, when can they go back to work?

Employees who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 can return to work 10 days after symptoms started **and** at least 24 hours after fever has resolved without the use of fever reducing medications **and** symptoms have improved. If they did not have symptoms, they can return to work 10 days after they were tested for COVID-19.

If an employee has symptoms but does not get tested, when can they go back to work?

Employees who have been ill with COVID-19 symptoms can return to work 10 days after symptoms started **and** at least 24 hours after fever has resolved without the use of fever reducing medications **and** symptoms have improved. We encourage anyone with symptoms to be tested.

If an employee has symptoms but tests negative, when can they go back to work?

If an employee is ill with mild symptoms that improve in a short period of time, that person also tests negative for COVID-19, and that person is not a close contact of a positive individual, they can return to work. They do not need to continue to stay at home for the 10 full days after symptoms begin. However, it is a good policy for anyone to be fever-free without the use of medications for 24 hours before returning to work. Also, vomiting or diarrhea should be gone for 24 hours before returning to work.

If symptoms continue after a negative test, they should see their health care provider to rule out any other possible illnesses.

How do I count the 10 days of isolation or 14 days of quarantine?

For **isolation (sick or positive individual)**, the day the individual first showed symptoms of illness is "Day 0." Count 10 days past that date for the return-to-work date. Be sure that the employee also has gone at least 24 hours without fever and it has resolved without the use of fever reducing medications; and has experienced a vast improvement in symptoms. If the person did not have symptoms, the date the positive test was taken is "Day 0." Count 10 days past that date for the return-to-work date.

- **Example 1:** Employee developed fever 6/14/20 (Day 0). Fever went away on its own 6/16/20. Employee has no other symptoms. Employee can return to work 6/25/20 (which is 10 full days after illness began and at least 24 hours after fever stopped).

- **Example 2:** Employee decided to get tested even though they did not have symptoms. Tested 7/20/20. Results came back positive 7/24/20. Date of test on 7/20/20 is “Day 0.” Employee could return to work 7/31/20 (which is 10 full days after date positive test was taken).

For **quarantine (exposed to a COVID-19 positive person or traveled internationally)**, the last day the person was exposed to the positive individual or the day the individual returned from travel is “Day 0.” Count 14 days past that date for the return-to-work-date.

It is important to note that the quarantine time period does not begin until after the **last** date of close contact with the positive individual. For this reason, it is critical for positive individuals to isolate from other household members. If they do not properly isolate, the close contact would be out of work during the 10 days of the positive household member’s isolation time period, PLUS an additional 14 days of quarantine.

- **Example 1:** Employee had close contact with an individual on 6/14/20 who tested positive a couple days later (Day 0). Employee can return to work 6/29/20 (which is 14 full days after exposure).
- **Example 2:** Employee’s spouse develops symptoms 7/1 and tests positive 7/3. Employee does not isolate from spouse at home. Employee must stay home during the spouse’s isolation period through 7/11. Then employee begins their 14-day quarantine period. This employee would not be able to return to work until 7/26!
- **Note:** If the employee develops symptoms while in quarantine, they must then revert to the 10 days past symptoms and 24 hours without symptoms to return to work. See isolation example.

COVID-19 testing

What types of tests are available for COVID-19?

There are many types of tests available for COVID-19. A diagnostic test (also called viral test or PCR) tests for **current** infection. An antibody test or serology (blood) test looks for **past** infection.

Are all employees required to be tested for COVID-19?

Workers reporting to work are now part of a prioritization group for testing, but there is no testing requirement. The current recommendation is for employees in public-facing positions to be tested for COVID-19 every two weeks. Many local testing locations will test asymptomatic individuals. Call testing locations before going to see if people without symptoms will be tested.

Should I get a diagnostic test?

- If you have any symptoms, get a diagnostic test to check for current infection.
- If you are working in person, consider getting a diagnostic test to check for current infection.
- If you work in a position with the public, state health officials encourage regular testing.

The “testing cadence” from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services recommends anyone working in public-facing positions to be tested every two weeks.

Can I get a diagnostic test without symptoms?

Yes. But remember a negative diagnostic test only means you were not infected on the day of the test. Continue to practice prevention measures to protect yourself and others.

What should I do while waiting for diagnostic COVID-19 test results?

If you have any symptoms or were exposed to someone who tested positive for COVID-19:

- Stay at home except to get medical care.
- Stay away from other people in your home.
 1. Use a separate room and bathroom if possible.
 2. Wear a mask if you go into shared spaces.
 3. Clean frequently touched surfaces and objects.
 4. Contact your Health Department to inquire about temporary housing.
- Call ahead before visiting a doctor.
- Make a list of anyone you came in contact with 48 hours before your symptoms started or since you were exposed.

If you have no symptoms and no known contact with someone who tested positive:

- Still try to stay away from others as much as possible.
- Keep track of anyone you come in close contact with after your test, as well as 48 hours before your test.

If an employee doesn't have symptoms but is tested for COVID-19, what do the test results mean?

- **Positive diagnostic test:** The individual must isolate for 10 days from the date the test was conducted. If no symptoms develop, they can return to work after those 10 days. If they develop symptoms, they should follow the return to work guidelines (10 days after symptoms started and 24 hours after fever has resolved and symptoms improved). Health Department staff will be in touch with the individual to conduct contact tracing and to connect the individual with needed resources during isolation.
- **Negative diagnostic test:** No action needed. Just remember this is a point in time for the test. The individual could have been recently exposed and tested negative or could be exposed after testing.

Personal protective equipment (PPE)

What type of PPE should I wear?

Healthcare workers should wear N95 masks. For appropriate use, N95 masks must be fit tested annually to ensure protection. Surgical masks can be worn by those not in direct care of a patient or providing treatment that cause aerosolization. Healthcare workers may also need to wear gloves, surgical masks along with a face shield (if N95 not available), gowns, and goggles.

Some people are choosing to wear disposable gloves as they perform everyday tasks. However, gloves don't make sense for most people to wear. Using your ungloved hands and washing them often is the best bet for the typical tasks of everyday life. Wearing gloves might also create a false sense of security, lead to less attention to hand washing, or contribute to cross-contamination when removing or reusing gloves.

Do patients/visitors need to wear masks?

Everyone who can medically tolerate a face covering must wear a face covering when in an indoor public space, and when outdoors if 6 feet social distance cannot be maintained. Face coverings can include a homemade cloth mask, scarf, bandana, or handkerchief. There are limited exemptions to this requirement.

Businesses that are open to the public must refuse entry and service to individuals who fail to comply, and they must post signs at all entrances instructing customers of their legal obligation to wear a face covering while inside. The state's website has [posters and more information](#) about face coverings.

Do employees have to wear masks at work?

Based on current state orders, these situations require face coverings:

- Any individual (employees, visitors, and customers) able to medically tolerate a face covering **must** wear a covering over his or her nose and mouth, such as a homemade mask, scarf, bandana, or handkerchief, when in any enclosed public space; when outdoors and unable to consistently maintain a distance of six feet or more from individuals who are not members of their household; and when waiting for or riding on public transportation, while in a taxi or ridesharing vehicle, or when using a private car service as a means of hired transportation.
- Employees who are not able to consistently maintain six feet of separation from other individuals **must** wear a face covering. (In addition, employees who are not able to consistently maintain three feet of separation from other individuals in the workplace **should consider** also wearing face shields.)

Employers can also establish guidelines that require their employees to wear masks at all times.

Hand hygiene & respiratory etiquette

What should I do if visitors or patients have symptoms of illness, such as coughing or sneezing?

Patients/visitors are required to wear a face covering, such as a homemade mask, scarf, bandana, or handkerchief, when in any enclosed public space, if they can medically tolerate one.

Employees should follow strict social distancing guidance and maintain at least a 6-foot distance from anyone, especially those who are having symptoms. If your employee must be closer to the customer, advise them to minimize time spent with symptomatic customers to less than 15 minutes, if possible. Be sure to provide the public with tissues and trash receptacles. Have a no-touch hand sanitizer dispenser near customer entrances.

Is hand sanitizer equal to washing your hands?

Washing hands with warm running water and soap is preferred whenever available. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers don't kill ALL types of germs, such as norovirus, some parasites, hepatitis A, and *Clostridium difficile*. Hand sanitizers also may not remove harmful chemicals such as pesticides and heavy metals like lead. Handwashing reduces the amounts of all types of germs, pesticides, and metals on hands.

Fortunately, alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol can kill the virus that causes COVID-19. Hand sanitizer should be used when running water hand washing is not available or practical. For example, hand sanitizer could be used after checking out at a grocery store cash register or moving between workstations in a factory.

What's the correct way to wash your hands?

When washing your hands, wet your hands with clean running water and apply soap. Lather your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Scrub all surfaces of your hands, including the palms, backs, fingers, between your fingers, and under your nails. Keep scrubbing for 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the "Happy Birthday" song twice. Rinse your hands under clean, running water. Dry your hands using a clean towel or air dry them.

What's the correct way to use hand sanitizer?

Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Apply enough product on hands to cover all surfaces. Rub hands together, until hands feel dry. This should take around 20 seconds. Do not rinse or wipe off the hand sanitizer before it's dry.

Cleaning & disinfection

What should I use to clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces?

Wear reusable or disposable gloves for routine cleaning and disinfection of high touch surfaces like tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, sinks, etc. Clean surfaces using soap and water or a cleaning agent, then use disinfectant. Cleaning with soap and water or a cleaning agent reduces number of germs, dirt, and impurities on the surface. Disinfecting kills germs on surfaces. Be sure to wash hands thoroughly with soap and warm running water after removing gloves.

For disinfection, most common EPA-registered household disinfectants should be effective. A list of products that are specifically [EPA-approved](#) for use against the virus that causes COVID-19 is available. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products (concentration, application method, and contact time, etc.).

Consider using wipeable covers for electronics. If no manufacturer guidance is available, consider using alcohol-based wipes or spray containing at least 70% alcohol to disinfect touch screens. Dry these surfaces thoroughly to avoid pooling of liquids.

Any product to be used for cleaning or disinfecting should have [Safety Data Sheets](#) (formerly known as Material Safety Data Sheets or MSDS) provided with the product or available online. The information must be shared with employees. Appropriate training must be given to employees on safe handling and use of the product, potential health effects of product use, and personal protective equipment required.

If I can't locate specific EPA-approved cleaners or wipes, etc., what can I use to clean surfaces?

A simple diluted bleach water solution is effective against the COVID-19 virus. Check the label to see if your bleach is intended for disinfection. Some bleaches, such as those designed for safe use on colored clothing, may not be suitable for disinfection. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for application and proper ventilation. **Never mix household bleach with ammonia or any other cleaner.** To make a bleach solution, mix 5 tablespoons (1/3rd cup) bleach per gallon of water OR 4 teaspoons bleach per quart of water. Wipe the solution on the surface to be disinfected. Leave solution on the surface for at least 1 minute. Bleach solutions should be made fresh every 24 hours.

How should I clean and disinfect after someone with COVID-19 has been in my facility?

We don't know how long the air inside a room could be infectious after someone with COVID-19 was there. If someone was actively ill at your facility, close off areas visited by the person who was sick. We recommend waiting 24 hours before you clean and disinfect these areas. This reduces the chance for other employees to be exposed to respiratory droplets.

You can shorten the time it takes respiratory droplets to be out of the air if you increase the ventilation in the area or room. Open outside doors and windows and use ventilating fans to increase air circulation in the area.

Clean visibly dirty and high-touch surfaces. Disinfect them after you clean. Clean and disinfect all areas, such as offices, bathrooms, common areas, shared electronic equipment (like tablets, touch screens, keyboards, remote controls, and ATM machines) used by the person who is sick, focusing on frequently touched surfaces.

Do not vacuum a room or space that has people in it. Wait until the room or space is empty to vacuum, such as at night for common spaces, or during the day for private rooms.