



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

Ned Lamont
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff
Commissioner

Peter Mason
Deputy Commissioner

Operations Memo 2020-21

To: DDS Qualified Providers

From: David David, Operations Center Director

CC: Jordan Scheff, Commissioner, Peter Mason, Deputy Commissioner, Katie Rock-Burns, Chief of Staff, Scott McWilliams, Chief of Fiscal/Administrative Services, Regional Directors, Private ARDs, Resource Administrators, The Alliance, The Arc CT

Date: April 21, 2020

RE: Private Provider - COVID-19 Post-Exposure Protocol for Individuals and Staff

The Department of Developmental Services is requiring private providers who support individuals or employ staff that have tested positive for COVID-19 to create a post exposure protocol for their agency.

Pursuant to the Center of Disease Control (CDC) Return to Work Criteria for Healthcare Professionals with Confirmed or Suspected COVID-19, two strategies can be used to determine if and when staff may return to work. A test-based strategy and a non-test-based strategy. DDS providers should use this guidance to determine the protocol that works best for their agency.

1. *Test-based strategy.*
 - i. Resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and**
 - ii. Improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath), **and**
 - iii. Negative results of an FDA Emergency Use Authorized COVID-19 molecular assay for detection of SARS-CoV-2 RNA from at least two consecutive nasopharyngeal swab specimens collected ≥ 24 hours apart (total of two negative specimens)

2. *Non-test-based strategy.*
 - i. At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed *since recovery* defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and** improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); **and**,
 - ii. At least 7 days have passed *since symptoms first appeared*

The CDC recommends that staff with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases who have not had any symptoms should be excluded from work until 10 days have passed since the date of their first positive COVID-19 test, assuming they have not developed symptoms since their original positive test.

For more information on the CDC Return to Work Criteria, please visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/return-to-work.html>

DDS will continue to provide any updates and information and guidance regarding COVID-19 with individuals, families and providers. To review all DDS communications please visit the DDS homepage at <https://portal.ct.gov/DDS>. As a reminder, please submit your COVID-19 related questions to DDS.COVID19@ct.gov.

Thank you.