



State of Connecticut  
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

Ned Lamont  
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff  
Commissioner

Peter Mason  
Deputy Commissioner

Operations Memo 2020-22

**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:** May 1, 2020

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

The purpose of this memorandum is to notify DDS providers of a change in the Non-Test Based Strategies included in Operations Memo 2020-21. Since dissemination of Operations Memo 2020-21, the Center of Disease Control (CDC) has made a change to the Non-Test Based Strategies under the Return to Work Criteria for Healthcare Professionals with Confirmed or Suspected COVID-19. The strategies included in this memorandum replace the strategies included in Operations Memo 2020-21. The change to the Non-Test Based Strategies is reflected in Number 2.ii below.

The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) 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 April 30, 2020 release of 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  $\geq 24$  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 10 days have passed *since symptoms first appeared***

Phone: 860 418-6000 ♦ TDD 860 418-6079 ♦ Fax: 860 418-6001  
460 Capitol Avenue ♦ Hartford, Connecticut 06106  
[www.ct.gov/dds](http://www.ct.gov/dds) ♦ e-mail: [ddsct.co@ct.gov](mailto:ddsct.co@ct.gov)  
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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.

Upon return to work, DPH has recommended that staff continue to self-monitor for new or recurrent symptoms for an additional 14-days following recovery from COVID-19. If symptoms reappear, the staff person should be sent home with a referral to a healthcare provider for retesting.

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](mailto:DDS.COVID19@ct.gov). Thank you.