EMPLOYER GUIDE TO SCREENING & TESTING

Considerations for returning to the worksite
As employers evaluate how to best create a safe working environment to minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission, it is important to understand the role both testing and symptom checking can play.

COVID-19 TESTS

PURPOSE
Detect the presence of the disease

WHEN TO USE
When an individual exhibits symptoms or has confirmed or suspected exposure to COVID-19

FREQUENCY
As needed

IMPORTANT NOTES
• Antigen and PCR /molecular diagnostic tests can diagnose the active COVID-19 infection at a moment in time. Even with a negative virus test, people may still have the virus (i.e. false negative) or become symptomatic at a later date.
• Serology tests detect the presence of antibodies produced after exposure to the virus. However, it remains uncertain whether individuals with antibodies are protected against reinfection with COVID-19, therefore the CDC does not recommend serology tests to determine when it is safe for a person to return to work.
• The continued strategy and reinforcement of screening, hygiene, social distancing and masks are critical.

RETURN-TO-WORKSITE SCREENING

PURPOSE
Evaluate the presence of symptoms

WHEN TO USE
Symptom Checking can help employers determine the risk of an individual entering a worksite location.

FREQUENCY
Daily

IMPORTANT NOTES
• Daily screenings can help an employer evaluate the presence of symptoms across their workforce, for the purposes of determining who should enter the worksite on a particular day.
• If symptoms are identified, an individual should follow protocols established by the employer and/or consult with a health care provider. Note that if individuals have been exposed to COVID-19, they may be able to spread the virus even though they do not experience symptoms early in the infection.
• The strategies outlined above should be combined with social distancing, mask utilization and vigilant hand washing/sanitizing in order to be effective at limiting COVID-19 transmission in the workplace.

KEEPING YOUR WORKFORCE SAFE:
Maintaining a safe work environment will require ongoing safety practices, as recommended by the CDC, OSHA, and state and local guidelines. For additional return-to-worksites resources please visit: https://www.cigna.com/coronavirus/employers/working-during-covid

The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) research center at University of Washington Medicine provides health data in real-time of key COVID-19 metrics: https://covid19.healthdata.org/united-states-of-america
## COVID-19 Tests

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test Type/Tool</th>
<th>Use</th>
<th>Administration</th>
<th>Length of Validity</th>
<th>Other Considerations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Antigen</td>
<td>Active infection</td>
<td>Swab</td>
<td>24 hours</td>
<td>Results typically delivered in 15 minutes. Not as accurate as PCR/molecular testing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCR/molecular diagnostic</td>
<td>Active infection</td>
<td>Swab</td>
<td>24 hours</td>
<td>Results typically delivered in 1-5 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serological</td>
<td>Previous infection</td>
<td>Blood Test</td>
<td>Longer validity if presence of antibodies is confirmed</td>
<td>Not clear if antibodies confer immunity; can be inaccurate when COVID-19 prevalence in the community is low</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### A note about coverage: Covered by Cigna (without cost sharing through 4/21/21) for diagnostic purposes. Must be FDA approved or Emergency Use Authorized (EUA), and CLIA lab-analyzed. Physician order recommended.

## Return-to-Worksite Screening

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Administration</th>
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<th>Other Considerations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Symptom and exposure questionnaire including temperature check</td>
<td>Presence of symptoms/potential infection (non-diagnostic)</td>
<td>App or web-based prior to arriving at worksite or worksite entry</td>
<td>Daily (work day) or until an employee exhibits symptoms</td>
<td>Employer has daily snapshot of employee health. Can be anonymous or identified with employee consent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entry temperature check</td>
<td></td>
<td>Temperature screening at entry points or as needed based on symptoms</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### A note about coverage: Most standard benefit plans do not cover tests being conducted strictly for employment reasons (e.g., employment drug screenings, return-to-worksite), therefore COVID-19 tests performed for return-to-worksite purposes will generally not be covered. The intention of the CARES Act legislation is to provide relief of cost share and coverage for people seeking medical care due to concerns/symptoms of COVID-19. It requires that commercial health benefit plans (including employer sponsored plans) waive customer cost share for certain COVID-19 testing during the public emergency period. The CARES Act does not pay for testing costs or cost share, nor does it cover testing for return-to-worksite purposes. Additionally, several tests promoted by vendors or online may not have FDA approval and would not be covered. For a list of FDA Emergency Use Authorized (EUA) tests, please visit: [https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices-emergency-situations-medical-devices-emergency-use-authorizations](https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices-emergency-situations-medical-devices-emergency-use-authorizations)

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