

COVID-19 Testing Resources Critical Utility Workers

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) & Common Concerns Related to Testing

1. Is the Commonwealth developing a strategy for designated critical utility workers for COVID-19 testing, particularly in the ensuing weeks as stay home orders are lifted?

Testing capabilities are increasing every week. A statewide strategy for testing critical infrastructure workers has not been developed. Federal guidelines have been established to help companies develop their own procedures for inclusion in their business continuity and pandemic plans. Testing at state-run mass testing sites, like the one at Mohegan Sun, are open to any symptomatic adult. More on testing locations is below.

2. Antibody tests & COVID19 testing locations

There are no FDA guidelines on how to interpret antibody testing, and antibody test results should not be used as the sole basis to diagnose or exclude SARS-CoV-2 infection, inform infection status, or predict future possibilities of infection. There is not a list of private labs that do testing. The Commonwealth does maintain a list of specimen collection/testing sites, below:

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Symptoms-Testing.aspx>

Note: Most of these sites will require a physician's order and are collecting samples in network.

3. Should we allow critical infrastructure employees to work if they have been exposed but are not showing symptoms of COVID-19?

To ensure continuity of operations of essential functions, CDC advises that critical infrastructure workers may be permitted to continue work following potential exposure to COVID-19, provided they remain asymptomatic and additional precautions are implemented to protect them and the community. Critical infrastructure businesses have an obligation to limit, to the extent possible, the reintegration of in-person workers who have experienced an exposure to COVID-19 but remain symptom-free in ways that best protect the health of the worker, their co-workers, and the general public.

Critical infrastructure workers who have been exposed but remain symptom-free and must return to in-person work should adhere to the following practices before and during their work shift:

- Pre-screen for symptoms
- Monitor regularly for symptoms
- Wear a face mask
- Practice social distancing
- Clean and disinfect workspaces

COVID-19 Testing Resources Critical Utility Workers

Sick employees should be sent home and should not return to the workplace until they have met the [criteria to discontinue home isolation](#).

Additional Resources: PA Department of Health, Testing Fact Sheet:

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Documents/Diseases%20and%20Conditions/COVID19%20Testing%20Factsheet.pdf>

CDC Guidance: Interim Guidance for Implementing Safety Practices for Critical Infrastructure Workers Who May Have Had Exposure to a Person Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/critical-workers/implementing-safety-practices.html>