



Technical Guidance for Critical Infrastructure Workers

The Alabama Department of Public Health recognizes the importance of the continuity of operations for critical infrastructure businesses. Critical infrastructure employers 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 asymptomatic in ways that best protect the health of the worker, their co-workers, and the general public. Employers also have an obligation to determine the criticality of the worker's role to determine if the work can be conducted at home to reduce the need to be at the workplace. Employers also have an obligation to take steps to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace.

Key Terms

Cases include anyone who has tested positive with a molecular or antigen diagnostic test, whether or not they have any symptoms. Cases also include close contacts who develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19, but may not have been tested.

Close contact is generally defined as being within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes and includes household contacts, intimate partners, and in-home caregivers, starting 2 days before symptoms appeared or specimen collection date (whichever was earlier). Distance could be longer and time shorter, depending on the exposure level and setting.

Critical Infrastructure Worker includes employees that work for industries identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency. For more information please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/critical-workers/implementing-safety-practices.html> and https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/Version_4.0_CISA_Guidance_on_Essential_Critical_Infrastructure_Workers_FINAL%20AUG%2018v3.pdf

Isolation separates people with an infectious disease, like COVID-19, from people who are not sick.

Guidance

Cases and symptomatic close contacts must isolate based on the Department of Public Health's Isolation and Quarantine Timeframes <https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/covid19/assets/cov-timeframes-isolation-quarantine.pdf> or <https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/covid19/assets/cov-timeframes-isolation-quarantine-hcp.pdf>

Close Contacts (without symptoms)

Critical infrastructure businesses *may* permit asymptomatic critical infrastructure workers that have been identified as close contacts to continue to work, if recommended by the CDC and the business provides safety precautions consistent with the CDC such as:

- 1) **Pre-Screen:** Employers should measure the employee's temperature and assess symptoms prior to them starting work. Ideally, temperature checks should happen before the individual enters the facility.
- 2) **Regular Monitoring:** As long as the employee doesn't have a fever or symptoms, they should self-monitor under the supervision of their employer's occupational health program.
- 3) **Wear a Mask:** The employee should wear a face mask at all times while in the workplace for 14 days after last exposure. Employers can issue facemasks or can approve employees' supplied cloth face coverings in the event of shortages.
- 4) **Social Distance:** The employee should maintain 6 feet and practice social distancing as work duties permit in the workplace.
- 5) **Disinfect and Clean work spaces:** Clean and disinfect all areas such as offices, bathrooms, common areas, shared electronic equipment routinely.

For more information please see https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/Essential-Critical-Workers_Dos-and-Donts.pdf