This guidance provides a recommended approach for facilities and organizations and is based on CDC guidelines. RIDOH acknowledges that this approach is more conservative, and the decision will ultimately be that of the facility/organization and infection control department.

**DECISION ALGORITHM FOR RETURN TO DIRECT PATIENT CARE FOR HEALTHCARE WORKERS WHO HAVE TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19**

1. Has it been at least 10 days since symptom onset?
   - Yes
     - Is there a critical need for the healthcare worker to work?
       - Yes
         - Is it a high-risk setting?
           - Yes
             - Perform a nasopharyngeal SARS-CoV-2 PCR every three to four days.
             - Negative: Continue to self-isolate until these two criteria are met.
             - Positive: Has the healthcare worker been asymptomatic for at least 10 days?
               - Yes: Return to work. Make sure to wear a surgical mask at all times. The healthcare worker must not care for severely immunocompromised patients (e.g., transplant, hematology-oncology) until at least 14 days after the last positive test (assuming no symptoms develop).
               - No: Perform a nasopharyngeal SARS-CoV-2 PCR every three to four days.
               - Negative: Continue to self-isolate until these two criteria are met.
               - Positive: Return to work. Make sure to wear a surgical mask at all times. The healthcare worker must not care for severely immunocompromised patients (e.g., transplant, hematology-oncology) until at least 14 days after the last positive test (assuming no symptoms develop).
         - No: Continue to self-isolate until these two criteria are met.
   - No
     - Perform a nasopharyngeal SARS-CoV-2 PCR.

No staff should ever work if symptomatic. These are minimum standards that should be met by an organization or institution.

* A COVID-19-positive healthcare worker who is asymptomatic may work with COVID-positive residents if there is no other staffing and there is adequate PPE. RIDOH recognizes this is not ideal; yet understands the staffing challenges.

For more information: health.ri.gov/covid