

March 24, 2020

COVID-19: Updated Work Restrictions, Guidelines for an Assignment to Care for Patients with Positive COVID-19 Diagnosis or In-Process of COVID-19 Rule-Out (Suspected)

COVID-19 Updated Work Restrictions for Health Care Team Members

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) recently announced [updated guidelines](#) for healthcare workers, including Providers, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

These guidelines provide information:

- that allows Providers without COVID-19 symptoms to continue to work
- that guide Providers with a positive COVID-19 diagnosis to be quarantined until symptoms have resolved and they are released to return to work.
- that advise all Providers to self-monitor by taking their own temperature two times/day and staying home if they experience COVID-19 symptoms.

Please know that **the safety of our Health Care Team is our top priority**. Munson Healthcare is following the standard of care for this rapidly changing situation. Self-monitoring of symptoms is of utmost importance to ensure that we are healthy and able to care for our patients.

Here are what the updated guidelines say:

- Providers who were previously quarantined and show no symptoms of COVID-19 are able to return to work. Entity-level Employee Health will contact quarantined employed providers to determine if they meet the updated guidelines and are able to return to work. Employee Health will notify their practice manager to let them know the employed provider is being released to return to work.
- Providers, if they have a positive COVID-19 diagnosis, will be quarantined or continue to be quarantined until symptoms are resolved and they are released to return to work by the entity-level Employee Health. Employed Providers who are quarantined by Employee Health are eligible for Emergency Support Pay.
- All healthcare workers need to all self-monitor, including taking their temperature twice-daily and watching for signs of COVID-19.
- Providers with symptoms should stay home, contact their entity-level Employee Health to confirm that they should stay home.
- If Provider is exposed to a patient with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 and is not showing any symptoms, they are able to continue working. Employee Health will advise the Provider if any additional self-monitoring is needed.
- MDHHS advises against testing of any asymptomatic individuals with or without an exposure to COVID-19, including healthcare workers.

As this situation evolves, these guidelines may change and we will continue to keep you updated.

Guidelines for an Assignment to Care for Patients with Positive COVID-19 Diagnosis or In-Process of COVID-19 Rule-Out (Suspected)

Purpose

Munson Healthcare is committed to the health and safety of the Health Care Team *and* assuring that patients with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 diagnosis receive consistent, quality care.

Scope

These guidelines apply to all Munson Healthcare (MHC) Providers who are in contact with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 patients or their rooms.

Guidelines

MHC Infectious Disease Providers and Infection Prevention professionals are constantly monitoring and following the spread of COVID-19. Based on their direction and current information, we have identified Health Care Team members (including Providers) who will be given the option whether or not to care for patients with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 diagnosis. These guidelines have been developed with care and concern for the Health Care Team, and are above and beyond conclusive evidence of any groups being more at risk. These guidelines may change as the pandemic and our healthcare needs evolves.

Providers who may opt-out of caring for these patients include those who meet any of the following criteria:

- Diagnosed as immunocompromised by their Primary Care Provider
- Pregnant
- Breastfeeding
- Over the age of 70

If Providers are unable to properly don or doff appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) due to physical limitations, they must notify their local Incident Command.

