



DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Division of Public Health

Essential Services Screening Recommendations for COVID-19 Pandemic

To help protect the public against the spread of COVID-19, Governor John Carney and Delaware Division of Public Health Director Karyl T. Rattay, MD, MS, strongly recommend that all employers screen employees each day before work by following these steps:

- All employees who are able to work from home should be working from home at this time.
- For those employees who must report to work: each employee should have their temperature taken each day, and if they have a fever at or above 99.5 degrees Fahrenheit, that employee should be sent home.
 - It is best to use touchless thermometers (forehead/temporal artery thermometers) if possible, but if you must use oral or other types of thermometers, make sure to clean the thermometers thoroughly between use with each employee, as to not spread infection.
 - Follow the manufacturer's directions to disinfect the thermometer.
 - If no directions are available, rinse the tip of the thermometer in cold water, clean it with alcohol or alcohol swabs, and then rinse it again.
 - If you do not have thermometers on site, have your employees take their temperatures at home. They should stay home if they have a fever at or above 99.5 degrees Fahrenheit and follow the same protocol.
 - Personnel screening employees for fever should consider wearing gloves and face masks per CDC recommendations.
- Employers should strongly consider screening each incoming employee with a basic questionnaire, which should include at least the below, however it can be made more comprehensive and/or employer-specific in consultation with medical professionals:
 - Do you have symptoms of respiratory infection (fever, cough, shortness of breath, or muscle aches)?
 - If YES, but symptoms have a known cause (asthma, COPD, chronic sinusitis, etc.), employer or medical personnel should weigh risks for COVID-19 exposure and consider sending employee home.
 - If YES, or employee is otherwise symptomatic and considered at risk for COVID-19 exposure, the employee should isolate at home.
 - - The employee should maintain home isolation until at least 3 days have passed *since recovery*: defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and** improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); **and**,
 - At least 7 days have passed *since symptoms first appeared*.

- *After discontinuation of home isolation, persons are to maintain social distancing and hand hygiene for an additional 4 days (for a total of 7 days without symptoms) due to the possible risk of continued infectivity. Persons may return to work after this 7-day period however should continue to recognize the risk of infectiousness and self-monitor for symptoms.*
- Employees should consult medical professionals if desired or needed.
- If at any time a doctor confirms the cause of the employee's fever or other symptoms is not COVID-19 and approves them to return to work, then employees can return.
- If NO, proceed to next step
- Have you been in *close contact* (e.g., within 6 feet for more than a few minutes) with a person with confirmed COVID-19 infection?
 - If NO, employee may proceed to work.
 - If YES, employee will be required to stay at home for 14 days from the time they were exposed to confirmed COVID-19.

Please remember to continue to follow preventative measures no matter how many employees are in the office — physical distancing, stay home when sick, use cough and sneeze etiquette, and practice hand hygiene as often as possible. Clean all high-touch surfaces regularly. For more information, visit: <https://coronavirus.delaware.gov/>. For answers to your COVID-19 questions, call 1-866-408-1899. Those with a hearing impairment can dial 7-1-1. Public inquiries and questions can be sent by email to DPHCall@delaware.gov.