Protocol for Health Care Workers (HCW) in Acute Care Hospitals

(Health care personnel interacting with patients for medical, nursing, dental, mental health care; includes radiology/lab as well as social workers providing direct services, OT/PT/RT and pharmacists)

Exposed – Asymptomatic

- 14 day quarantine.
  - Twice-daily temperature check.
  - Monitor for respiratory symptoms.
  - If source patient tests negative, can lift quarantine.
  - If source patient tests positive even if HCW tests negative, 14-day quarantine still required if tested prior to the end of the quarantine period.
- Can work wearing a surgical mask (if allowed by employer).
- If asymptomatic, can be released from quarantine after 12:01 AM on the 14th day by the designated medical staff, Infection Preventionist or Employee Health nurse for the facility.
- If ANY symptoms, exclude from work and refer for testing (see below).

Exposed – Symptomatic

- Exclude from work, 14 day quarantine. Instruct in home isolation.
  - Twice-daily temperature check
  - Monitor for respiratory symptoms.
- Refer for testing.
  - While test is pending continue home isolation.
  - If test is negative and no longer symptomatic:
    - If source patient ruled out, discontinue isolation and clear for work.
    - If source patient was positive, complete 14 day quarantine. May return to work during the quarantine period with a surgical mask as above (if allowed by employer) when completely asymptomatic and afebrile for 24 hours.
  - If test is negative, but still symptomatic, an individualized assessment of other potential diagnosis (e.g., flu) is required for whether repeat testing may be indicated.

Positive COVID-19 Test

Symptomatic Health Care Workers with suspected or confirmed COVID-19:

To remain on home isolation until:

- Resolution of fever for at least 24 hours, after the last fever spike, without the use of fever-reducing medication **and** improvement of other symptoms. (e.g., cough, shortness of breath, sore throat); **and**
- At least 10 days have passed **since last positive test. Encourage HCWs not to retest.**

Health Care Workers with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 who never had any symptoms:

- To remain on home isolation until 10 days have passed since the date of their first positive COVID 19 diagnostic test, assuming they have not subsequently developed symptoms. If they develop symptoms, then the protocol for symptomatic individuals should be followed. **Encourage HCWs not to retest.**

Note: PH clearance and letters are no longer required. The Infection Preventionist in Acute Care Hospitals is the designated person to clear HCWs in their facilities.