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 and other symptoms consistent with COVID-19 (e.g. new loss of taste or smell).
  - If source patient tests negative, quarantine can be lifted.
  - If source patient tests positive, refer for PCR testing if it has been at least 5-7 days since date of exposure. 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.
- If ANY symptoms, exclude from work and refer for PCR testing unless tested within 7 days of symptom onset (otherwise evaluate for other potential causes).

Exposed – Symptomatic

- Exclude from work instruct in home isolation.
  - Twice-daily temperature check
  - Monitor worsening or development of additional symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 (e.g. new loss of taste or smell).
- Refer for PCR testing if testing is not available at the HCF.
  - 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 is positive, complete 14 day quarantine. May return to work with a surgical mask (if allowed by employer) when completely asymptomatic and afebrile for 24 hours.
  - If test is negative, but still symptomatic, an individualized assessment for other potential diagnosis (e.g., flu) is required to determine whether repeat testing is 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 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 last 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.