Protocol for Health Care Workers in Skilled Nursing Facilities
(Healthcare personnel interacting with patients for medical, nursing, dental, mental health care, 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 symptom suggestive of COVID-19 (e.g. New loss of taste or smell).
  - If source patient ruled out, quarantine can be lifted.
  - If source patient tests positive recommend PCR testing if it has been at least 5-7 days since date of exposure. 14-day quarantine still required despite a negative test, 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 Infection Preventionist for the facility.
- If develops ANY symptoms, exclude from work, and refer for PCR testing unless tested within 7 days of symptom onset.

Exposed – Symptomatic

- Exclude from work, instruct in home isolation.
  - Twice-daily temperature check
  - Monitor for 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 facility.
  - 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 PCR 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 other symptoms. (e.g., cough, shortness of breath, sore throat) and
- At least 10 days have passed since last positive test.
- Encourage not to re-test prior to 90 days after their last positive test, unless required by state guidance.
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 not to re-test prior to 90 days after their last positive test.**
- The designated Infection Preventionist for the facility may clear their HCW to return to work but must follow the Public Heath clearance criteria. PH letter will not be provided.
- Public Health must clear its HCWs working in facilities on restrictions due to an outbreak. A PH clearance letter will be provided.

**Note:** Asymptomatic COVID-19 positive HCW can work wearing full PPE, but only with COVID-19 positive patients until clearance criteria are met.