



EFFECTIVE: 4/1/2020

This policy revokes and replaces all previous policies on this topic and will expire on 12/31/2020

Return to Work Protocol

Coronavirus/COVID-19 Emergency

I. Purpose

In response to the public health emergency related to the novel coronavirus and its related disease, COVID-19, the Town of East Bridgewater ("Town") is providing this protocol for all those experiencing symptoms or who have tested positive for COVID-19. This protocol aims to establish a procedure for employees as they prepare to return to work.

This policy mirrors the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) Guidelines for return to work for healthcare workers who have experienced symptoms or who have tested positive for COVID-19.

II. Procedure

For employees who have tested positive for COVID-19 and plan to return to work, the employee may not do so until they meet **ALL** of the following criteria before returning to work:

- a. Resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; **and**
- b. Improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); **and**
- c. Negative results of COVID-19 tests from at least two consecutive nasopharyngeal swab (nasal swab) specimens collected 24 hours apart **(total of two negative tests)**.

For employees who have exhibited symptoms of COVID-19 but have **not received a positive test**, said employee must meet **ALL** of the following criteria before returning to work:

- a. At least 3 days (72 hours) 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**
- b. At least 7 days have passed **since symptoms first appeared**.

III. Reporting

The criteria listed above for employees who have tested positive for COVID-19 and all those experiencing symptoms without a positive test shall be reported to the Town Administrator prior to said employee's return to work. **Please note:** the above criteria are based on CDC guidelines and are subject to change as the public health emergency continues to develop. Any changes to these criteria, or protocol in general, shall be communicated to the affected employees as soon as practicable.