

Updated YNHHS COVID-19 Isolation, Quarantine, and Testing Requirements
Effective December 28, 2021

Situation

The Yale New Haven Health System employee COVID-19 positivity rate has drastically increased and will likely continue to rise, resulting in potential health care personnel staffing shortages and a strain on the Health System and patient care.

Background

Yale New Haven Health System has maintained stability in staffing and minimized COVID positivity rates amongst health care personnel with a combination of COVID-19 vaccination and booster programs, masking requirements, testing accessibility, and other health care facility infection prevention measures. Unfortunately, in the past two weeks there has been an increased rate of COVID infection among employees and staff, and an increase in high-risk exposures to COVID infected individual(s), resulting in home isolations.

As of December 27, the YNHHS employee daily positivity rate (< 10% prior to December 15) has increased to 20% since December 22. The number of out-of-work employees has markedly increased and will probably increase further in the coming days due to increasing numbers of infected employees and employees with high-risk exposures requiring quarantine.

The CDC released emergency interim guidance on December 23 for managing health care personnel during this Omicron Surge (links below).

<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s1223-emergency-guidance-prepare-for-omicron.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assesment-hcp.html>

Assessment

The Occupational Health Employee Resource Center and Infection Prevention will continue to provide recommendations and solutions which are consistent with safe patient care in the setting of staff shortages to employees and staff who have sustained an exposure or are themselves infected with COVID. Based on the CDC releases and assessing the current state and foreseen needs of the YNHHS, the following practices will be employed at this time. We will continue to monitor the situation and CDC guidance and update requirements as needed.

Recommendations and Requirements

The Yale New Haven Health System mitigation practice for Health Care Personnel who are infected with COVID-19 or had high-risk exposure to COVID infected individuals will be as follows:

- 1. COVID-19 Positive Health Care Personnel (HCP)**
 - a. COVID positive HCP determined by either positive PCR or rapid antigen test
 - b. COVID Positive HCP who are not immunocompromised will need to isolate for **7 days (with day 0 being the first date of symptoms)**; they will not require a negative test prior to returning to work.
 - c. The HCP will receive a presumptive clearance via MyChart to return to work tentatively on day 8 if they are fever free and have improved mild symptoms.
 - d. COVID positive HCP who are immunocompromised or have severely ill disease will need to home isolate for **20 days**.

- 2. Asymptomatic HCP who had a high risk exposure to someone infected with COVID-19**
 - a. Asymptomatic HCP who had a booster vaccine dose may continue to work. Testing is not required. If they develop symptoms at any time, they should be removed from work and obtain testing using the following link:
<https://ocucovidtesting.ynhhs.org/>

- b. Asymptomatic HCP who are not fully vaccinated or are fully vaccinated but do not have their booster dose may continue to work but should be tested for COVID-19 once on day 1 or 2 after the exposure and once again between day 5-7 after the exposure. Use the link below to schedule the tests. If they develop symptoms at any time, they should be removed from work and obtain testing using the following link:

<https://ocucovidtesting.ynhhs.org/>