

FAQs: Employees with Prior COVID-19 Infection Within the Last 90 days

1. I had a recent COVID exposure, but no COVID symptoms. Do I need to test or quarantine?

No. Employees who have tested positive in the past 90 days and are asymptomatic (have no symptoms) may continue to work and are not required to test.

2. I've been testing routinely with a home test since my positive test a few weeks ago. I haven't had any symptoms and sometimes I am positive and sometimes I am negative. Do I need to quarantine again if I test positive?

If you do not have any new COVID symptoms and have not taken Paxlovid for a recent COVID infection, you do not need to test again within 4 weeks of your initial infection. Your test may not be sensitive enough to detect active viral matter from inactive viral particles.

3. Can I get a PCR test if I tested positive in the last 90 days?

No. PCR tests are very sensitive tests, able to detect any residual viral fragments from a prior COVID virus for up to 90 days.

4. I have new COVID symptoms and was COVID-positive within the past 30 days. I did not receive Paxlovid. What should I do?

You do not need to test. Given the short time period since your recent infection, you may have symptoms related to your initial infection. If you have a fever, diarrhea, or vomiting, please follow HEIC policy and do not report to work. Call out following your departmental call-out policy. Please seek further evaluation from your healthcare provider (MD, DO, NP, or PA) as needed.

5. I have new COVID symptoms and was COVID-positive within the past 30 days, and received Paxlovid treatment. What should I do?

If you have received Paxlovid (any dose or duration), got better, and then developed symptoms again within 20 days of your initial positive test, please call the JHCCC at 443-287-8500, option 1, between 7am and 7pm. We will ask you further questions to determine your testing needs and work restrictions.

6. I have new COVID symptoms and tested COVID positive between 31- 90 days ago. What should I do now?

Please call the JHCCC at 443-287-8500, option 1, between 7am and 7pm for further assessment.

7. I have new symptoms and am concerned I may have COVID again. I tested negative with the Hopkins Lumira antigen test and with an at home test, but I have heard that a PCR test is the most accurate test. Why won't the JHCCC order one for me?

PCR tests are very sensitive, and can detect viral fragments from a previous COVID infection for up to 90 days. To detect an acute infection within 31-90 days of prior infection, the Lumira antigen test has been shown to be the preferred method to identify a current COVID infection. The Lumira test is highly sensitive and specific to detect an acute COVID infection.

*****If you develop difficulty breathing at rest, chest pain, confusion, blue lips, or severe headache with fever at any time, please call 911 or go to the Emergency Department immediately. *****