



Clinton County

Isolation Guidance and Return to Work during Pandemic

POLICY STATEMENT

It is the purpose of this policy to provide employees and county officials with guidelines to best protect the Clinton County workforce and public from the spread of COVID-19 while at work.

It is a policy which may change as the Iowa Department of Public Health guidance and CDC recommendations change. Please call 211 if you have any COVID-19 related questions.

DEFINITIONS:

2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19): is a new kind of coronavirus that was first detected in China and has now been detected in many countries, including in the United States and in Iowa. There are seven different coronaviruses known to infect humans, including four very common, more mild viruses that cause illness similar to the common cold. Healthcare providers test for these common coronaviruses routinely and no public health measures are needed to address these common coronaviruses. Three of the seven coronaviruses are rare and can cause more severe illness, including the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

Symptoms:

Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure and can include:

- Fever
- Cough (newly acquired and not attributed to another health condition)
- Shortness of breath (newly acquired and not attributed to another health condition)
- Sore Throat
- Body/muscle aches
- Headaches
- Loss of taste and smell
- General cold like symptoms (without a test assume it is COVID-19)
- Diarrhea and or nausea

Reported illnesses have ranged from people being mildly sick to people being severely ill and dying. Older patients and those with chronic medical conditions may be at higher risk for severe illness. There is currently no specific treatment for COVID-19. People with COVID-19 receive supportive care to help relieve symptoms.

Close Contact: Being around someone without a mask, closer than 6 feet, for 15 minutes or greater.

Essential Services Personnel: Law Enforcement, Jail, Communications, Public Health, Emergency Management Personnel, and Secondary Roads Employees.

Non-Essential Services Personnel: Clinton County staff outside of Law Enforcement, Jail, Communications, Public Health, Emergency Management.

Vital Staff: Employee's within the Non-Essential Services Personnel, who have vital tasks/duties that must be performed even during a County shut down. Vital Staff are deemed vital by their Department Head or Elected official.

Fully Vaccinated: a person where it has been more than two weeks since they received their second dose in a 2-dose vaccine series OR more than two weeks since they received one dose of a single-dose vaccine.

PREVENTION:

The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus and get vaccinated. People can help prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses to others by covering their coughs and sneezes, cleaning their hands frequently and staying home when ill. CDC recommends wearing a face masks for the general public in public spaces where social distancing is difficult to achieve. Prevention recommendations include:

- Get Vaccinated
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Stay home when you are sick
- Cover your mouth with your upper arm or tissue with coughing or sneezing
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Wear a face mask in public spaces were social distancing is difficult to achieve.

ISOLATION & RETURN TO WORK

All Employees returning to work:

From Illness

- a. No fever of 100.4 or greater for at least 72-hours without the use of fever-reducing or other symptom-altering medicines (cough suppressants or fever reducing medications);
and
Other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved);
and
At least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
- b. Return-to-work note from physician may be requested.

Essential Services Personnel: Law Enforcement, Jail, Communications, Public Health, Emergency Management Personnel, and Secondary Roads.

Reasons to self-Isolate:

- Live with someone who has symptoms of COVID-19 or has tested positive for COVID-19
- Provided care/services to someone with symptoms of COVID-19 or has tested positive for COVID-19 without using proper PPE
- Had close contact (within **three** feet for 15 minutes or greater without a mask) with a person who is being tested for COVID, has tested positive for COVID, or have symptoms of COVID and has chosen not to test.
- You have symptoms of COVID-19.

Essential services personnel are allowed to go to work as long as they don't show symptoms and monitor their temperatures at the beginning and end of their shift. If essential services personnel become symptomatic at any point during their shift, they should be sent home immediately and self-isolate until the conditions addressed above for all ill employees are met. **Essential services personnel will be directed by their direct supervisor as to if the employee is expected to come to work.

Non-Essential Services Personnel: Clinton County staff outside of Law Enforcement, Jail, Communications, Public Health, Emergency Management, and Secondary Roads.

Reasons to self-Isolate:

- Live with someone who has symptoms of COVID-19 or has tested positive for COVID-19
- You have symptoms of COVID-19 or have tested positive for COVID-19

If you have symptoms or live with someone who has symptoms or has tested positive for COVID-19, you should not be at work and should request an EFMLA. Please see Clinton County EFFMLA and EPSLA policy for instructions.

Vital staff, identified by the Department Head or Elected Official, may work as long as they don't show symptoms and monitor their temperature at the beginning and end of their shift. If a vital staff worker becomes symptomatic at any point during their shift, they should be sent home immediately and self-isolate until the conditions for return are met (see "All Employee returning to work from Illness")

Employees who have been exposed to COVID-19 who do NOT have to quarantine are listed below:**Vaccinated persons:**

An employee fully vaccinated with an approved COVID-19 vaccination who have been exposed to someone with a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection are NOT required to quarantine if they meet all of the following criteria:

1. They are fully vaccinated (meaning, it has been more than two weeks since they received their second dose in a 2-dose vaccine series OR more than two weeks since they received one dose of a single-dose vaccine) AND

AND
2. They have remained asymptomatic since the current COVID-19 exposure.

Prior COVID-19 illness:

Someone who has had COVID-19 illness within the previous 3 months/ 90 days AND has recovered AND Remains without COVID-19 symptoms (for example, cough, shortness of breath) Does not need to quarantine.

Nonetheless, a fully vaccinated person or a prior COVID-19 Illness employee who does not quarantine following an exposure should continue to monitor their health by watching for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days after the exposure and if symptoms develop, they should see their health care provider or get tested.

All employees should self-monitor their health and not come to work if they display with sickness.