



**DALLAS COUNTY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**  
**ACUTE COMMUNICABLE DISEASE EPIDEMIOLOGY DIVISION**

Philip Huang, MD, MPH  
Director/Health Authority

To Whom it May Concern:

Based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC),<sup>1</sup> please excuse \_\_\_\_\_ (name) from work. The employee is displaying signs and symptoms of COVID-19 (such as fever, cough, shortness of breath, or sore throat) and/or tested positive for COVID-19 by a RT-PCR or antigen test. According to the CDC guidance, the employee may return to work when all 3 of the following conditions are met:

1. It has been 10 days since symptoms first appeared. Date of symptom onset: \_\_\_\_\_
2. It has been more than 24 hours since the last fever without using fever reducing medications
3. Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving

For employees who were severely ill with COVID-19 or have a severely weakened immune system, they may need to stay home longer than 10 days and up to 20 days after symptoms first appeared. In such situations, employees should seek medical advice regarding when it is safe to return to work.

For employees that test positive for COVID-19 by a molecular (e.g. RT-PCR) or antigen test but are not displaying symptoms (“asymptomatic”), the employee may return to work after 10 days from the test date. Date of positive test without symptoms: \_\_\_\_\_ (leave blank if not applicable).

Please excuse this employee from work for the time needed to comply with this guidance. A negative test is not required to return to work.

**Background:**

There is widespread community transmission of COVID-19 occurring in Dallas County. COVID-19 is a respiratory illness (which affects breathing) caused by a new coronavirus. Symptoms can range from mild (such as sore throat) to severe (such as pneumonia). Most people will not need medical attention for their symptoms, but they should isolate themselves in accordance with CDC guidance to avoid the spread to others. Visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html> for more information.

Sincerely,

Joan Schulte, DO, MPH  
Deputy Health Authority and Medical Director  
Dallas County Health and Human Services

DCHHS will not be responsible for confirming the details of this letter.

8.18.2020

1. CDC.gov. Returning to Work. Updated August 3, 2020. Accessed August 18, 2020. Available from: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/returning-to-work.html>