

April 20, 2020

Return to Work Guidelines: **Confirmed Covid-Positive Health Care Workers**

Like many communities in Nova Scotia, NSHA has seen the identification of health care workers confirmed with COVID-19. As the weeks evolve some of these employees are considered recovered and are working with Occupational Health Safety & Wellness to return to the workplace in a safe manner.

The guidelines for return to work have been developed in collaboration with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Infectious Disease and Medical Microbiology.

Effective April 17, 2020, a health care worker will be deemed recovered and able to return to work **IF** they are:

- A minimum of 10 days from symptom onset
- Do not present with a fever
- Are clinically improved
- Are demonstrating an improvement in respiratory symptoms

If all criteria noted above have been met, the employee will be cleared to return to work through Occupational Health Safety & Wellness. If one criterion is present the employee will not be considered recovered and will not be permitted to return to work.

Complex cases will be reviewed with the Occupational Health Safety & Wellness physician and case specific return to work criteria will be provided.

Please note: The return to work guidelines noted above removes the requirement for repeat swabbing of a health care worker prior to return to work. Again, some cases will require case specific guidance and these will be identified through Occupational Health Safety & Wellness.