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MISSION:
In support of Allen County and its municipalities, the Fort Wayne-Allen County Department of Health strives to promote the health, safety, and well-being of all residents. With guidance from the Indiana State Department of Health and support from our many partnering agencies, we endeavor to have a model public health infrastructure that provides professional, responsive, and cost-effective services to the community.

March 20, 2020

Physician Update

As the cases of COVID-19 continue to rise in our community, we would like to address a few questions we have gotten about healthcare worker's and the possible staff shortage that could result from an increase of cases and exposures in this population.

When can healthcare worker's return to work after being diagnosed with confirmed or presumptive positive cases of COVID-19?

A healthcare worker can return to work once they have been free of fever (without medication) for 72 hours AND at least 7 days have passed since the onset of symptoms.

When can a healthcare worker return to work after an exposure to a confirmed or presumptive case of COVID-19?

A healthcare worker is considered high-risk and would require a 14-day quarantine period if they were within 6ft of a case for more than five minutes without PPE. This recommendation needs to be followed if the healthcare worker works in a high-risk setting, including dialysis, hematology-oncology, NICU, geriatrics, or any other high-risk setting.

New recommendations from the CDC do include allowances for asymptomatic healthcare workers who have had an exposure to a COVID-19 patient to continue to work after options to improve staffing have been exhausted and in consultation with their occupational health programs. These healthcare workers must have their temperatures checked at the start of every shift and must wear all appropriate PPE while having direct contact with patients.

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