COVID-19 Health care Worker Revised Testing Protocols

Effective 4/3/20

In response to the widespread impact of the COVID-19 virus, Vidant Health is adjusting its protocol to ensure the safety, health and well-being of all health care workers and patients. Occupational Health has been evaluating health care workers' symptoms and, as a result, will implement the following critical COVID health care worker protocols.

All health care workers are mandated to report any COVID-19 concerns to Occupational Health. Additional reporting responsibility applies to their supervisors and also to infection control professionals (if known). If a health care worker answers yes to any of the following, it must be reported to Occupational Health:

- Health care worker has symptoms of fever of 100.4, shortness of breath or new cough within the past two weeks not related to seasonal allergies
- Health care worker exposed to a known positive COVID-19 patient [more than 10 continuous minutes of close contact (within six feet) without Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)]
- Health care worker leaves work due to sickness

Occupational Health is the administrator for COVID-19 testing process for health care workers. In an effort to safely and quickly identify potential risk for patients and health care workers, please arrange COVID-19 testing from your local Occupational Health nurse. This process allows Vidant to receive more timely results, which is critical in keeping the health care worker, Vidant team members and patients safe.

COVID-19 Testing Criteria [verified by Occupational Health Medical Director (OHMD) or Infection Control]:

- Health care worker with any one of the COVID-19-like symptoms (fever, shortness of breath or new cough within the past two weeks, not related to seasonal allergies) will be tested for COVID-19, if a flu test is negative. For known exposures in symptomatic health care workers, proceed with COVID-19 testing without flu. Testing priority will be at the discretion of the Occupational Health Medical Director and will be based on testing availability. (Testing options include rapid and send out)
- Health care worker will remain out of work until test results are back, or until otherwise instructed.

A health care worker who does not test in Occupational Health:

- If you are tested outside of the Occupational Health process, it is required that you notify Occupational Health immediately. You will be required to complete a testing verification form. A member of the Occupational Health team will follow up with you during your quarantine period to determine if you have received your results. Please contact Occupational Health immediately upon receipt of your results. Work status will be determined by the Occupational Health medical director.

Health care worker return-to-work process:

- The health care worker may return to work after a minimum of seven (7) days since symptoms first appeared and 72 hours without fever, off of anti-pyretic medication and with improving respiratory symptoms. The health care worker must complete a telephonic phone screen clearance with Occupational Health.
- The health care worker must use a surgical mask in the workplace for 14 days after date of exposure, regardless of symptoms.

*Health care worker includes anyone working within a Vidant Health facility.

Please direct all COVID-19 questions relating to these protocols to Occupational Health 252-847-7609 and select option 1.