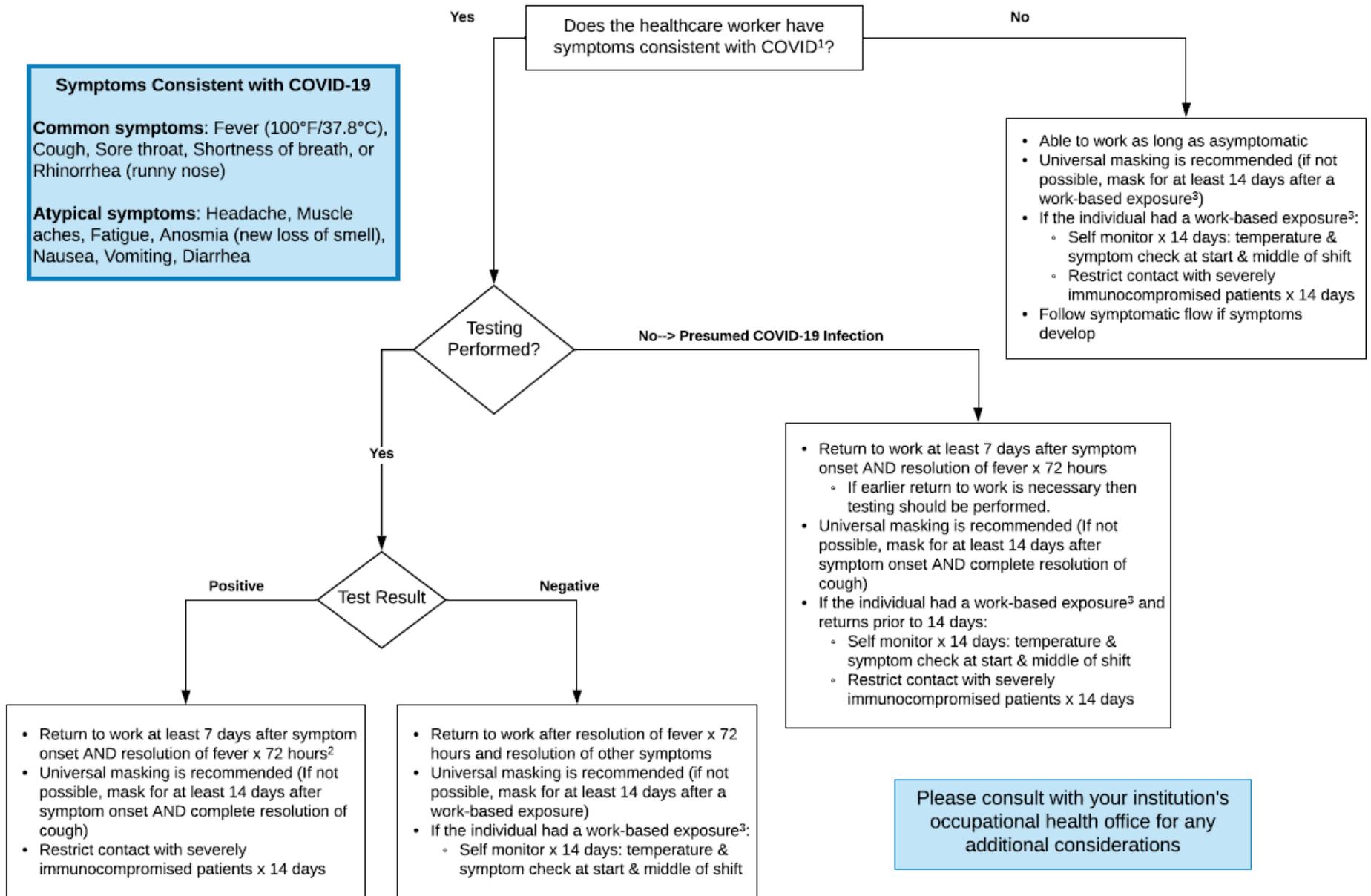


SFDPH Return to Work Guidance for Healthcare Personnel With Potential COVID-19 Infection



1. Both common and atypical symptoms should be considered when evaluating whether a healthcare worker has symptoms consistent with COVID-19. 2. For confirmed positive health care workers working in certain high risk settings (including- long-term nursing care facilities, jails or other congregate living facilities), employers may consider return to work after 14 days, unless the HCW has been retested and is no longer PCR positive. 3. Exposures to COVID-19 within the household require a 14 day quarantine period (unlike work-based exposures) due to increased risk of disease transmission in this setting.

Notes on SFPDH Return to Work Guidance for Healthcare Personnel with Potential COVID-19 Infection

Context:

The [CDC guidance on return to work criteria for healthcare providers](#) notes explicitly that it may be adapted by local health departments as needed to respond to local circumstances. The attached algorithm is designed to provide SFPDH recommendations for San Francisco healthcare personnel and organizations on return to work criteria.

Additional Notes:

- While these are standardized recommendations for San Francisco, healthcare organizations are not prohibited from modifying return-to-work criteria for their employees. For that reason, healthcare personnel should consult their institution's occupational health office for any additional considerations.
- Where the algorithm states "resolution of fever x 72 hours" it should be taken to mean resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications, as described in the [CDC guidance](#).
- As noted, healthcare personnel who are household contacts or intimate partners of a COVID-19 case (i.e. not a work-based COVID-19 exposure) should stop work and undergo home quarantine for a period of not less than 14 days due to increased risk of disease transmission in this setting.
- "Universal masking" means that healthcare personnel should wear a facemask at all times while in the healthcare facility. A cloth facemask may be used if the supply of medical facemasks runs out.
- Healthcare personnel recommended to self-monitor should use the fever and symptom criteria described under "Symptoms consistent with COVID-19."
- "Severely immunocompromised patients" means transplant or hematology-oncology patients and others with a high degree of immune suppression, described in the [CDC guidance](#).
- If availability of testing allows, healthcare organizations may also choose to use a test-based strategy for return to work as described in the [CDC guidance](#).