

# COVID-19 Bulletin

 Southcoast Health

Exclusively for the employees  
of Southcoast Health

*January 21, 2022*

*Greetings, Southcoast Colleagues.*

In this Bulletin, you will find the following:

- **UPDATED: Criteria for return to work**
- **IMPORTANT REMINDER: Sign up for MyChart to easily schedule an appointment for testing and receive immediate results**
- **STATUS REPORT: COVID-19 cases**

Please scroll through the entire Bulletin for these updates, and be sure to visit Southcoast's [COVID-19 Employee Hub](#).

*Thank you.*

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## **UPDATED: Criteria for return to work**

Some changes have been made to the employee Return to Work (RTW) requirements and procedure. The most significant change is that we are **now accepting results from home test kits**.

See below for the updated RTW process and criteria, for symptomatic employees, bolded below:

- Positive Test Result: If your result comes back Positive, you must stay out of work for 5 days from the date of your first positive test. **A home test is acceptable.**

You can end isolation on Day 5 and return to work on Day 6 (Test date is Day 0) if you are fever free for at least 24 hours without fever reducing medication and have improvement of symptoms AND have received clearance from Employee Health to return to work. (See below for how to contact Employee Health.)

+ Example: COVID test was collected on Sunday (Day 0), Monday-Friday (5 days), return to work on Saturday (Day 6).

**If your symptoms have not improved on Day 5, you should not end isolation and must notify Employee Health via the RTW process specified below to receive evaluation and further direction.**

- Negative Test Result: If your result comes back Negative, you can go back to work if you are fever free for at least 24 hours AND your symptoms have improved AND you have received clearance from Employee Health to return to work. (See below for how to contact Employee Health.)
- Contacting Employee Health on RTW clearance: To contact Employee Health for return to work clearance, complete the [online RTW form](#) (preferred method). If you are unable to complete RTW form online, send an email to Employee Health at [SC-covidreturn@southcoast.org](mailto:SC-covidreturn@southcoast.org) for clearance to return and include all information listed below. If you have difficulty sending this email, please ask your supervisor for assistance.

**Include all information below in the Return to Work on-line form or email:**

- + Name
- + Date of birth
- + Phone number
- + Test date
- + Date symptoms began
- + Current symptoms present
- + Department and name of your manager
- + Have you been fever free for the past 24 hrs without the use of fever reducing medications?

- + Attestation that above information is true and accurate (*Check off the attestation box on the online form. If information is provided by email, please indicate that the information provided is “true and accurate.”*)

Southcoast is monitoring and responding to Return to Work online form submissions and emails every day, including weekends and holidays. You will be contacted by email within 24 hours after submitting information.

To coincide with this Bulletin, the following documents have been updated and are posted on the COVID-19 Hub.

- [Return to Work Decision Algorithm for Asymptomatic Employees 1/20/22](#)
- [Return to Work Decision Algorithm for Symptomatic Employees 1/20/22](#)

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**IMPORTANT REMINDER: Sign up for MyChart to easily schedule an appointment for testing and receive immediate results**

We urge you to sign up for MyChart (**even if you do not receive your care at Southcoast Health**). It takes only minutes to create a MyChart account.

Having a MyChart account is the fastest way to schedule appointments (for things like COVID testing) and the fastest way to see the results of your tests performed at Southcoast. If you have not signed up today, please do so ASAP.

You can sign up by clicking [MyChart](#). An instruction sheet is also available [here](#).

Availability of home tests:

- + Southcoast has purchased home test kits for resale only to employees at our retail pharmacies. Each kit contains two tests. Due to limited supply, each employee is able to purchase only 1 kit. Please be sure to bring your ID Badge at time of purchase.
  - + The federal government is making home test kits available at no cost. Every home in the U.S. is eligible to order 4 free at-home COVID-19 tests, which can be ordered [here](#). Orders normally ship in 7-12 days.
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## **STATUS REPORT: COVID-19 cases**

As of midday, across our we have 158 patients who have tested positive for COVID-19 hospitalized across our system – with 21 positive cases in ICU. In addition, we have 14 PUI hospitalized system – with no PUI in ICU.

COVID-19 daily dashboards, generated by the Southcoast Analytics Team, are available [here](#).

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*Thank you, and be well.*