



## FAQs for Businesses/Employers RE: Positive COVID-19 Test Results

### How will I know if an employee has tested positive?

If Jefferson County Public Health (JCPH) determines that there has been close contact between an individual who has tested positive and the staff or patrons of a business, public health staff will contact the business owner or manager. In some cases, an employee may notify an employer directly. If at that time there has been no communication between the employer and JCPH, the employer should call JCPH at 360-385-9400. If an employee tests positive, they will be required to self-isolate at home and will not be available to work.

### What exactly is a “close contact”?

A “close contact” is defined as someone who has interacted with an individual with a confirmed positive test result for more 15 minutes of time, within 6 feet or less of distance.

### If I have an employee who tested positive, should I close my business?

This should be a decision made in cooperation with JCPH, including the County Health Officer. However, in many cases a business does not need to close unless there is evidence of an outbreak (2 or more cases) associated with the business.

### Will a business be notified if one of their employees is a close contact of a positive individual?

In most cases, no. Close contacts will be asked to quarantine and be tested, but protocol does not suggest quarantining or testing of *contacts of close contacts*. However, potential future test results from close contacts may require further action. There may be circumstances where contact is so close or so prolonged that more follow-up is required (in which case, you will be contacted by JCPH).

### What if a customer tests positive?

This very much depends on the nature of the interaction and layout of the business. Any decisions about actions to take should be made in cooperation with JCPH. Some circumstances may require action, but many will not.

### Should I notify the Health Department if a customer lets me know they tested positive?

Only close contacts of people infected with COVID-19 need to quarantine themselves after exposure. If a customer reports they have tested positive AND you have been within 6 feet of them for 15 minutes or longer, you may be a close contact and need evaluation. If Jefferson County Public Health has not already contacted you, you should call the health department at 360-385-9400.

## How do I protect my staff and customers, whether there is a positive case or not?

- Disciplined, proper wearing of face coverings for both staff and customers
- Using outdoor space for meetings or other interactions whenever possible
- Frequent washing of hands: ensure adequate ability to do so, for both customers and staff
- Work to minimize the number of staff in a vehicle at any one time; face coverings for all
- Maximize ventilation: open windows, keep air moving, use air filtration and exchange systems
- Keep space clean with regular wiping and sanitizing of commonly touched shared surfaces or tools
- Ensure employees self-monitor for symptoms and do not come to work if sick
- If they do have symptoms, staff should contact their medical provider about being tested
- If they are tested, stay home until negative test results are in
- Encourage tele-working whenever possible
- Keep coworkers more than six feet apart, whenever possible
- Follow all industry specific guidance from Governor, including developing a safety plan