

GEORGIA CHAMBER

Resiliency & Recovery Initiative

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RETURN TO WORK: Guidance on COVID-19 Testing from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

As more Georgia businesses have employees returning to work, it is important for every business to consider utilizing a strategy to test for COVID-19.

Testing can be incorporated as part of a comprehensive strategy to reduce the spread of the virus, which can also include symptom screening, mask usage, social distancing



practices, and contact tracing. Testing supplies are limited and delays in testing results are being experienced, so engaging a multi-faceted approach is vital to keep employees and customers safe.

The **Georgia Department of Public Health** is recommending employers follow the time/symptom return-to-work plan due to the current high demand for testing. Time/symptom scenarios are listed below.

SCENARIOS

I believe or know that I had COVID-19, and I had symptoms:

You can be with others after **all** of the following:

- ◆ 3 days with no fever
- ◆ Respiratory symptoms have improved
- ◆ After 10 days from the date that the symptoms first appeared

Depending on your healthcare provider's advice and availability of testing, you might want to get tested to see if you still have COVID-19. **If you are tested**, you can be around others when you have no fever, respiratory symptoms have improved, and you receive two negative test results in a row, at least 24 hours apart.

I tested positive for COVID-19, but had no symptoms:

If you continue to have no symptoms, you can be with others after 10 days of having been tested.

Depending on your healthcare provider's advice and availability of testing, you might want to get tested to see if you have COVID-19. **If you are tested**, you can be around others after you receive two negative test results in a row, at least 24 hours apart.

Your Comprehensive Strategy Over the Long Term:

Employers may include testing of all workers, periodic testing, or testing employees returning from a prolonged absence, as part of their overall return to work strategy. When deciding which approach best fits your needs, consider the following factors:

- ◆ Availability of testing
- ◆ Type of business
- ◆ Rate or change-in-rate of people being infected in your local community
- ◆ Number of employees that have tested positive in previous rounds of testing
- ◆ Time between exposure to the virus and positive COVID-19 test results
- ◆ Experience with workplace outbreaks

By strategically assessing your businesses environment and needs, testing can be made available to those who need it most with results arriving in a timely manner. If testing is an integral part of your strategy, consider conducting testing at your job site or using home tests that can be shipped to employees. For more information, please click [here](#).

To learn more about **Georgia Chamber's convenient, online Return-to-Work training program**, please visit gachamber.com/covid19.

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