Return-to-Work Town Hall: PART 8

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Introduction
Today’s Topics

01. Q&A on the Newest Treatments, Testing & Guidance
02. Preventing Spread in the Workplace
03. The Prolonged Impact of COVID-19
04. COVID-Safe Consulting

Please submit questions via the chat function.
Meeting Recap

This meeting is being recorded and will be available on our resource page:

AtriumHealth.org/EmployerSolutions/COVID
Q&A on the Newest Treatments, Testing & Guidance
Q&A

Testing

Abbott’s new BinaxNOW rapid test seems to be a game changer in terms of affordability and speed of results. How can I access this testing option?

Are saliva tests that have Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) approval a reliable and more affordable option than EUA-approved tests that use a nasal swab for collection?
Fact Check: Guidance and Stats

Last month, the CDC issued guidance that “you do not necessarily need a test” if you’ve been in close contact with a person with COVID-19 but have no symptoms. However, a blog posted two weeks ago by the NIH stated “if you have no symptoms but think or were told you were in contact with a person with COVID-19” you should get a test. Which guidance is correct?

There have been reports that only 6% of the deaths attributed to COVID-19 were actually caused by COVID-19. Is that true?
Q&A

Treatments

What is convalescent plasma? Who can donate it and should they if they can? Can it protect me from getting COVID-19?

What are some of the most promising treatments for COVID-19 you have seen to date?
Q&A

COVID-19 Vaccine

What do you think is a realistic timeline for when a vaccine will be available?

Understanding that healthcare workers, frontline workers and high-risk individuals will be first in line, how long after a vaccine is first available will it be accessible to the general public?
Nicolette Davis, MPAS, PA-C
Assistant Specialty Medical Director, Occupational Medicine

Preventing Workplace Spread
Ongoing vigilance with prevention measures protects employees and customers.

- Even organizations that never closed should reevaluate workspaces and business practices.
- Contacts made in the workplace represents 20-25% of all weekly contacts.
- Working generates 10 additional contacts per day compared to those that stay at home.

Preventing Workplace Spread

Industries with the highest average number of contacts per day:

Retail/hospitality: 90 contacts per day
Manufacturing: 47 contacts per day

Workspaces

• Adapt work environments to maintain **physical distancing**
  - Consider plexiglass cough guards or other barriers for areas where physical distancing isn’t possible (e.g. checkout lines)

• Look at **circulation** and adjust foot traffic in narrow spaces and areas where it’s difficult to maintain a 6’ distance

• Implement **frequent cleaning and disinfection** of workstations and high-touch surfaces such as doorknobs, copier/printer equipment, breakroom refrigerators and microwaves
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Encourage employees to wear **face masks** in the workplace, if appropriate
- Evaluate each job to determine **additional PPE** that might be needed (e.g. gloves, goggles, face shields, gowns)
- Educate employees on how to **properly wear PPE**
Safe Work Practices

• Encourage **social distancing** of at least 6’, especially in common areas such as breakrooms, restrooms and elevators

• Support **hand hygiene** management

• **Screen** employees before each workday

• Have a plan in place for how you’ll manage **workplace exposures**
HR Policies

- Identify **high risk employees** and special accommodations that will provide them with extra protections

- Consider **work scheduling** that supports social/physical distancing and contact tracing
The Prolonged Impact of COVID-19
The Prolonged Impact of COVID-19

35% of respondents had not returned to their usual state of health when interviewed 2 to 3 weeks after testing.

Of those who were still exhibiting symptoms 2 to 3 weeks after testing positive for COVID-19, 45% reported coughing, 35% reported fatigue, and 29% reported shortness of breath.

Among people aged 18 to 34 years with no chronic medical conditions, 1 in 5 had not returned to their usual state of health.

The Prolonged Impact of COVID-19

That is why preventative measures, including social distancing, frequent handwashing and the consistent and correct use of face coverings in public, should be strongly encouraged to slow the spread of COVID-19.

26% of 18 to 34 year olds, 32% of 35 to 49 year olds, and 47% of 50+ year olds were still exhibiting symptoms for 2 to 3 weeks after testing positive for COVID-19.
How does COVID-19 compare to the flu?

More than 90% of outpatients with influenza recover within approximately 2 weeks of having a positive test result.

- Influenza patient recovery
- COVID-19 patient recovery (within 2 weeks of testing positive)
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Ruth Krystopolski, MBA
Senior Vice President, Population Health

COVID-Safe Consulting
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Ensuring physical workspaces and operational protocols are optimized to prevent spread and protect employees and customers

• On-site assessment of workspaces by Atrium Health experts
• Guidance on implementing basic infection prevention measures
• Review of safe work practices and administrative considerations
• Summary of findings
Q&A and Closing
Q&A
Next meeting:
Wednesday, November 18,
3-4 PM

Where to go for additional information:

Email COVID19RTW@AtriumHealth.org with questions, topic suggestions for the next Town Hall, or to request more information on Atrium Health COVID-19 screening and testing.

Visit AtriumHealth.org/EmployerSolutions/COVID for the most updated COVID-Safe for Employers content and tools.
Thank you.