As our communities continue to recover from the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, Atrium Health is leading the way with our innovative COVID-Safe for Employers initiative. Through this program, we’re helping employers reopen as safely as possible by providing critical screening and testing, as well as expert guidance and support. And our offerings can be customized based on your organization’s unique needs, so your team can feel protected and confident as you get back to work in a COVID-Safe environment.

**On-Site Post-Exposure Testing**

The N.C. Department of Health and Human Services recommends that individuals who have been in close contact with a known COVID-19-positive person should be tested following the exposure, regardless of symptoms. But when a COVID-19 exposure occurs, multiple people may be affected, making it challenging for employers to manage.

Atrium Health’s On-Site Post-Exposure Testing program removes the burden of coordinating testing after an exposure by deploying a team of experienced healthcare professionals to the employer’s worksite. Through this program, employees who have been in close contact (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes) with a COVID-19-positive person are eligible for testing.

Testing events are scheduled 4 to 7 days after an exposure occurs. Test samples are collected using a cotton-tipped applicator to swab the inside edge of both nostrils. During the event, Atrium Health professionals take all necessary precautions to ensure the safety of participants and staff.

Participants can typically access their test results 3 to 5 days after the testing event. Results are available by text message and/or through the participant’s MyAtriumHealth account. In addition, employers will receive a comprehensive results report for all individuals tested.
COVID-Safe Consulting

Whether you’re an essential business that never closed its doors or you’re an organization that is slowly but surely resuming operations, Atrium Health’s COVID-Safe Consulting delivers expert guidance and support to ensure you are providing the safest environments possible for your employees and customers.

Facilitated by an Atrium Health Employer Solutions clinical leader and client service manager, COVID-Safe Consulting includes a thorough on-site assessment of your workspaces. During this assessment, our experts will inquire about job roles and responsibilities as well as standard business practices to obtain a broad picture of your organization’s daily operations.

Following the on-site assessment, your organization will receive a comprehensive summary of findings that includes customized guidance on:

- **Social/physical distancing** in common areas such as breakrooms, restrooms and elevators
- **Cleaning and disinfection** of workstations and high-touch surfaces such as doorknobs, copier/printer equipment, breakroom refrigerators and microwaves
- **Circulation** of foot traffic in narrow spaces such as stairwells and office aisles
- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** needs and proper use
- **Hand hygiene** management
- **High-risk employee** identification and special accommodations
- **Work scheduling** that supports physical distancing and contact tracing
- **Screening** employees before each workday
- **Testing** following exposures
- **Industry-specific guidelines** (as applicable)

By implementing the guidance provided in the summary of findings, you can feel confident that your workspaces and operational protocols are optimized to mitigate risk and prevent the spread of COVID-19 to protect your employees and customers.
Symptom Checker Tool

Screening employees each day before they arrive at work, along with having them wear personal protective equipment (PPE), are recommended to protect your workforce from a COVID-19 occupational exposure. Atrium Health is offering employers a symptom checker tool free of charge, which allows employees to record the presence or absence of COVID-19 symptoms.

Getting started is easy. Employers simply need to provide a current employee eligibility file and the contact information for the individual(s) who will be checking results. The individual(s) checking results will be able to access their employee symptom checker results in real time.

Employees will fill out a brief digital questionnaire about COVID-19 symptoms before coming into work each day. If they indicate that they’re experiencing any of the symptoms listed, they’ll be instructed not to report to work and to follow their standard work process for calling out sick. They’ll also be instructed to get care if symptoms worsen. If employees respond that they’re not experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19, they’ll be notified that they’re safe to go into work.

Worksite Exposure Management

Taking the proper precautions ahead of time is your best course of action to protect your workforce from becoming infected. However, even with the best safeguards in place, it’s possible that you will have a COVID-19 worksite exposure. Should that happen, Atrium Health is here to help.

To begin, we’ll help you determine what level of exposure your employees have sustained. This will aid you in determining which employees should be removed from the workplace and quarantined at home.

After the high-risk exposures have been identified, they’ll be connected to Atrium Health’s virtual observation unit. Using telemedicine, our specialized care team will remotely monitor your employees while they safely self-isolate in the comfort of their own home.

Diagnostic testing at one of Atrium Health’s COVID-19 testing sites will be scheduled 4 to 7 days after the exposure. If an employee develops symptoms, our care team will reach out to the employee and determine the appropriate course of action.

Patients can easily access their results on MyAtriumHealth as part of their online health record. Employees can also receive results by text or automated phone messages. Those with positive results are enrolled in Atrium Health’s COVID-19 Virtual Hospital and receive a follow-up phone call from a nurse who is assigned to provide the care they need to recover.

With Atrium Health’s Worksite Exposure Management program, you can rest assured that your employees will receive the best care possible.
On-Site Antibody Testing

Delivered by a team of highly trained professionals, this service brings reliable, high-quality antibody testing directly to your worksite. Antibody testing may provide information about prior exposure to COVID-19. The presence of antibodies in a person’s blood may help determine their immune response to the virus and also support future research.

COVID-Safe precautions, including screening participants before testing, will be implemented for everyone’s safety. Blood samples will be collected by drawing blood from a vein, also known as venipuncture. Anyone who arrives at the testing site with symptoms will be referred for additional care.

On the day of testing, employees will be given educational materials about the test. And when they receive their results, they’ll also receive information that explains what the results mean. Following the testing, employers will receive a report of the results.

We know that the COVID-19 pandemic has brought unprecedented challenges for businesses. And as we enter the next phase of this crisis, Atrium Health is here to provide expert clinical guidance and advice to restore a sense of normalcy for your organization.

If you’re interested in learning more about Atrium Health’s COVID-Safe for Employers initiative, please email us at COVID19RTW@AtriumHealth.org.