

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Q. What do I do if I have tested positive for the coronavirus?**

A. Upon notification of a positive test for coronavirus by a testing laboratory, the health department will interview you and those who might have had close contact with you to provide information regarding self-isolation and monitoring of symptoms or other steps as appropriate. We would also ask that you contact your department director or administrator to inform them of the positive test results so they can assist in addressing workplace concerns.

### **Q. I heard that some people at my department have tested positive for the coronavirus. Why is it not reported?**

A. In our current environment there is a great potential for rumors and misinformation. Focus on information from trusted sources. Upon notification of a positive test, the health department will interview an employee and those who might have had close contact with that employee to provide information on self-isolation and monitoring of symptoms or other steps as appropriate. Note that only employees directly at risk may be contacted by the health department due to HIPPA privacy laws. A decision to close an area will be based on multiple factors including the ability to safely carry on work with social distancing and other measures to minimize risk to employees and the community.

### **Q. A coworker tested positive/is being tested for COVID-19 can HR verify this person's status?**

A. The County and the Health Department can neither confirm nor deny any individual's testing status. When notified of a positive test for COVID-19, health department staff seek to contact the person who tested positive as soon as possible to interview them about their recent activities and close contacts. Depending upon their findings, the health department may reach out to those who might have had close contact with them to provide information regarding self-isolation and monitoring of symptoms or other steps as appropriate. While positive cases can usually be reached within a few hours, it can be more difficult to reach those who are hospitalized. In addition, it is not necessary or feasible to notify any and all individuals who may have had indirect, passing or casual contact with an infected individual. Those who become aware of an unspecified or unidentified exposure should follow all the recommended hygiene precautions and monitor themselves for signs of fever.

### **Q. What should I do if I am sick with COVID-like symptoms?**

Any employee who has symptoms (i.e. fever, cough, or shortness of breath) should stay home and contact their physician. Follow CDC recommended steps to limit spread to their household and community. Make sure that you are regularly washing your hands, practicing social distancing and staying home if you feel sick.