



**CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES  
DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH**

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**Eric C. Friedlander**  
Acting Secretary

**Steven J. Stack, MD**  
Commissioner

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Dear Colleagues,

As COVID-19 surges within our state, we must remain vigilant in keeping Kentuckians safe by ensuring unprecedented health care personnel capacity. Each new day will bring increased, extensive HCP close contact with vulnerable, potentially contagious individuals, therefore a HCP monitoring and work restriction recommendation is as follows:

- When a HCP is *asymptomatic* and exposed to a COVID-19 patient/person, **continue to work**.
- When a HCP is *symptomatic*, work restriction should be utilized.
  - Symptoms include a fever PLUS one or more of the following:
    - Shortness of breath
    - Cough
    - Diarrhea

Coupled with the above recommendations, review the CDC's *Interim U.S. Guidance for Risk Assessment and Public Health Management of Healthcare Personnel with Potential Exposure in a Healthcare Setting to Patients with Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)* to provide guidance on assigning risk and determining the need for work restrictions.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assesment-hcp.html>

I'm hopeful for the day when we can return to operating under the very high expectations we were accustomed to, however, during this pandemic, such allowances must be considered in order to maintain our skilled HCP workforce to care for the sick while simultaneously protecting them from our patients and each other. I am confident this guidance offers a level of safety and protection and that this approach will be refined and updated as more information becomes available and as response needs change in the United States.

As Team Kentucky, thank you for your dedication and passion for public health!

Steven J. Stack, MD  
Commissioner

**TEAM  
KENTUCKY**