

## **SSC Medical Clearance to Return to Site for Confirmed Positive and Self-Isolated Cases**

The following process for obtaining medical clearance to Return to Site at SSC is applicable to all SSC employees that were previously reported as self-isolated or under a directed quarantine due to COVID-19. The process is based on guidance developed by the NASA Office of the Chief Health and Medical Officer (OCHMO) in consultation with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Department of Defense (DoD) employees assigned to SSC should follow DoD guidelines.

In order to be cleared for access to SSC, all NASA and NASA contractor employees in self-isolation/quarantine must utilize the SSC Medical Clinic to complete the process. The SSC Medical Clinic will utilize **SSC Form 602, Request for Medical Certification Exam**, as the means to record/track employees seeking medical clearance for Return to Site. Supervisors of employees will be contacted by the NASA Emergency Management Officer and provided instructions. The completed SSC Form 602 should be e-mailed to the clinic ([tasia.b.henton@nasa.gov](mailto:tasia.b.henton@nasa.gov) or [ssc-medical-certifications@mail.nasa.gov](mailto:ssc-medical-certifications@mail.nasa.gov)) to initiate the process. The SSC Medical Director is the final approval authority for medically qualifying NASA and NASA contractor employees who have been in self-isolation/quarantine to return to site. Once medically qualified to return to site, the supervisor authorizes the employee's return to their on-site work location.

For resident agencies, tenants, or on-site organizations not performing NASA work, those employees with self-isolation/quarantine cases at SSC, employers/supervisors may utilize the SSC Clinic process as described above or their own health/medical team if appropriate. The SSC Clinic medical staff or employer's medical service provider will verify that the employee meets the below criteria and will comply with the employer's medical policies for documentation of this medical clearance.

Once this verification process has been completed, the employee's supervisor will notify the NASA Emergency Management Officer (Kenneth Volante, 228-342-8167 or [kenneth.e.volante@nasa.gov](mailto:kenneth.e.volante@nasa.gov)) or the Alternate Emergency Management Officer (John Schreck, 228-861-4955 or [john.n.schreck@nasa.gov](mailto:john.n.schreck@nasa.gov)) when employees have been cleared. Mr. Volante will confirm with the supervisor that the employee is cleared to access SSC.

### **For Confirmed Positive or Suspected Positive Cases:**

#### **1. Time-Since-Illness-Onset and Time-Since-Recovery Return to Site**

Persons with COVID-19 (positive test or suspected positive) who displayed symptoms and were directed by a healthcare provider to care for themselves at home may discontinue home isolation under the following conditions:

- At least 7 days have passed since recovery, defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement in symptoms as detailed in the Safe-at-Work Protocol; and,
- At least 14 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
- With the approval of their supervisor, a NASA employee may telework prior to return to the site. Non-NASA employees must contact their supervisor for guidance.

#### **2. Test-Based Return to Site**

Persons who have COVID-19 (positive test or suspected positive) who displayed symptoms and were directed by a healthcare provider to care for themselves at home may discontinue home isolation under the following conditions:

- Resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and
- Improvement in symptoms as detailed in the Safe-at-Work Protocol and

- Negative results of an FDA Emergency Use Authorized molecular assay for COVID-19 from at least 2 consecutive nasopharyngeal swab specimens collected not less than 24 hours apart (total of 2 negative specimens).

### **3. Hospitalized Patients with COVID-19**

- Patients who were hospitalized due to COVID-19 may have had prolonged active virus shedding and encounter additional medical issues complicating their recovery. For this reason, such patients' Return to Site requires that not less than 14 days have elapsed post-discharge and at least 7 days have passed since recovery, defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement in symptoms as detailed in the Safe-at-Work Protocol.
- With the approval of their supervisor, a NASA employee may telework prior to Return to Site. Non-NASA employees must contact their supervisor for guidance.

### **4. Employees with a Member of their Household with Active COVID-19 Case**

- Continue self-isolation for 14 days after all active infections in the household are resolved, consistent with the guidelines above, then follow the appropriate Return to Site process from this document.

#### **For Non-Positive Cases:**

##### **All Others in Self Isolation**

Confirm the employee has been symptom free for at least 14 days from the start of the self-isolation period.