

**SSC Medical Clearance to Return to Site for Confirmed Positive and Self-Isolated Cases  
As of 9/22/2020**

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.

NASA will follow the CDC and U.S. Department of State (State Department) guidelines with regard to testing and return to work, with one notable exception: Rather than allow an employee to return to work within 24 hours of resolution of symptoms, NASA will maintain the 72 hour (3 days) standard from the previous edition of the CDC guidelines. This exception is due to the higher average age of the NASA workforce than the population for which this guidance was developed, as well as the higher risk to NASA missions than an average employment risk.

Scenario	Return Requirements
Employee has tested positive for COVID-19	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. At least 3 days have passed since recovery, defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement in symptoms; <u>and</u>,</li> <li>2. At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared; <u>and</u>,</li> <li>3. At least 20 days since discharge if hospitalized or if history of immunocompromised state.</li> </ol> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. For persons who never develop symptoms, isolation and other precautions can be discontinued 10 days after the date of their first positive RT-PCR test for COVID-19 RNA.</li> </ol>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The test-based strategy (repeating a test) is no longer recommended to determine when to discontinue home isolation, except under certain circumstances.</li> </ol>
Employee has not taken a COVID-19 test but does exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 or the flu (and has not been hospitalized)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least 3 days have passed since recovery, defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement in symptoms; <u>and</u>,</li> <li>At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.</li> </ol>
Employee has been identified as a trace contact, has a known exposure to COVID, or has a member of their household who has tested positive or exhibits signs of COVID-19.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Self-quarantine for at least 14 days; and,</li> <li>The employee has exhibited no signs or symptoms of COVID-19.</li> <li>For critical personnel only (Fire, EMS, Medical, Security, Safing of critical hardware) - 7 days have passed and the personnel remain asymptomatic, are in appropriate PPE* while on-site, and temperature checks reveal no fever. However, if life, property, or mission are at risk, these personnel may return to work earlier with the proper safeguards of PPE, distancing, and temperature checks on site.</li> <li>The test-based strategy is no longer recommended to determine when to discontinue home isolation, except under certain circumstances.</li> </ol>
International Travel for NASA Employees	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All employees traveling Outside the Contiguous United States (OCONUS) will need to adhere to the guidelines of the host country when traveling to that destination. Upon return, the employees should follow the guidelines of the CDC and State Department regarding any restrictions or port of entry, maintain vigilance regarding self-observation for any signs or symptoms in the week following their return, and maintain PPE and social distancing while on site.</li> </ol> <p><a href="https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/ea/covid-19-information.html">https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/ea/covid-19-information.html</a></p>
International Partners Traveling to the U.S.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>International Partners traveling from outside the United States to a NASA Center from countries currently under quarantine or restrictions posted by the CDC or State Department must abide by those restrictions. Those traveling from countries without said restrictions should maintain vigilance regarding self-observation for any signs or symptoms in the week following their arrival and maintain PPE and social distancing while on site.</li> <li>Follow the specific guidelines for testing and quarantine placed upon them by their host nation upon their return.</li> </ol> <p><a href="https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/COVID19-Country-Specific-Information.html">https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/COVID19-Country-Specific-Information.html</a></p>

\*Appropriate PPE refers to suitability relative to the task and risk. For direct patient care or where social distancing is not possible, an N-95 is recommended. For someone working outdoors or in an area where adequate social distancing is easily obtained, a cloth face mask is appropriate.