



## Shawano-Menominee Counties Health Department

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## Quarantine/Isolation & Return to Work As of March 19, 2020

### SOME DEFINITIONS TO NOTE:

Sometimes these terms are used interchangeable, so sometimes, they get confused.

**Quarantine** is done for individuals that may have been exposed to someone ill but may not be currently experiencing any symptoms. Occasionally people without any symptoms can transmit illness.

**Isolation** is done for individuals who are sick and experiencing symptoms. Isolation may last longer than 14 days depending on severity of the illness.

### When should I send my employees home for self-quarantine or isolation?

An employee who has travelled or who has been exposed to a confirmed or otherwise known case of COVID-19, should be sent home and **quarantined** for at least 14 days to monitor for symptoms. Guidelines for monitoring during quarantine are on a separate document.

An employee should be sent home to **isolation** if they begin to experience flu-like symptoms such as fever, cough, or difficulty breathing while at work. A person with symptoms should remain at home until criteria in the next section of this document are met.

### When can my employees return to work?

According to guidance from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, an employee who is **quarantined** because of potential exposure through travel or contact with a case of COVID-19 may return to work if they remain symptom free after 14 days.

An employee who is **isolated** because they have symptoms, whether or not they were put in to quarantine, may return to work when:

- They have been free of fever, productive cough, and other acute symptoms of respiratory infection for 72 hours.

**AND**

- 7 days has passed since the day the person first experienced symptoms.

\*Please note, since both of these criteria should be met, an employee may be out for longer than 7 days if symptoms have not improved by day 7.