

March 16, 2020

Re: COVID-19 Screening and Suspension of Select Occ Med Services due to COVID-19

Dear Valued Employer,

We appreciate your patience during this time as our healthcare system manages COVID-19. Please know that Atrium Health is working diligently to continue to provide care to our occupational medicine clients and their employees. The following changes are effective immediately and until further notice. As you are aware, guidance changes daily and we will adjust our protocols with safety as the priority.

Screening for COVID-19:

At this time, no facility, nationwide, should be screening for COVID-19 in a patient that has no symptoms, even if they had possible exposure. Please note that any employee sent to one of our facilities for a screening test for COVID-19, will not receive the test unless they meet the CDC criteria: including fever, cough and shortness of breath. Nationwide, the reagent for this test is in limited supply and reserved only for the severely ill where no other source of infection can be identified or, severely ill with known exposure or travel to an endemic country. Atrium Health Infectious Disease providers must screen every request for COVID-19 testing against the CDC criteria before allowing providers to perform the test. All other screening tests for other illnesses such as flu, strep throat, and other upper respiratory viruses, are available for those that are symptomatic but do not meet COVID-19 criteria. If in question, please call the Atrium Health Urgent Care closest to you.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html#symptoms>

DOT Exams and CMV Drivers Carrying Emergency Resources:

According to Federal Motor Carrier Administration and Safety Act (FMCSA), those drivers that are "providing direct assistance in support of relief efforts related to the COVID-19 outbreaks" could be exempt from renewal CMV driver medical exams if they meet the criteria in the link below. This does NOT include drug testing. Read full document for more details.

<https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/emergency/emergency-declaration-under-49-cfr-ss-39023-no-2020-002>

Spirometry:

The American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM) announced on 3-16-20 that it strongly recommends discontinuing all spirometry testing until further notice. This is due to the possible spread of infectious droplet particles if the test subject is infected with COVID-19. Effective March 17th 2020 at 9am, spirometry will no longer be a selection in our online scheduling system, "Reserve Your Spot (ClockwiseMD)". We apologize for the inconvenience this may cause and we are actively following and updating our practices based on national recommendations.

Fit Testing:

Of note, if you require fit testing for your employees annually, OSHA has recommended to stop doing so effective immediately. Initial fit testing for subjects is still permitted. See the guidance:

<https://www.osha.gov/memos/2020-03-14/temporary-enforcement-guidance-healthcare-respiratory-protection-annual-fit>

Questions:

We appreciate your support and loyalty during this time. If you have any general questions, please contact us at Atrium Health Employer Solutions: David.Fox@AtriumHealth.org.

Sincerely,

Atrium Health Employer Solutions
Atrium Health Urgent Cares
Atrium Health Employer Based Clinics