## **NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)**

## NMC CONTINUE TO WORK - RETURN TO WORK

Guidelines for Staff | Revised April 20, 2020

## **COVID-19 TESTING STATUS**

	If COVID-positive	If COVID-negative	If COVID-untested
Any symptoms below:  Fever ≥ 37.8C / 100F Cough Sore Throat Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing Unexplained muscle aches Loss of sense of smell or taste Nasal congestion (different from pre-existing allergies)	No entry without Employee Health (EH) Clearance Letter.  Return to work (RTW) criteria:  • 14 days have passed since onset of symptoms, AND  • At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since last fever without the use of fever- reducing medications (e.g., acetaminophen, ibuprofen, aspirin), AND  • Symptoms have completely resolved.  If after 14 days, any respiratory symptoms persist (like persistent cough), you will require additional clearance from EH before returning to work	No entry without Employee Health (EH) Clearance Letter.  Return to work (RTW) criteria:  Return when illness resolved AND  No fever in the last 24 hours  If you DO NOT work in a high risk unit <sup>1,2</sup> , return to work is acceptable with improving or lingering symptoms if wearing a mask	No entry without Employee Health (EH) Clearance Letter.  Return to work (RTW) criteria:  If less than 7 days since symptom onset: → Recommend testing before RTW  If more than 7 days since symptom onset, mild illness protracted (lasted > 7 days): → Recommend testing before RTW  If more than 7 days since symptom onset, mild symptoms lasted < 7 days, and NO fever for past 3 days → RTW clearance with masks on non-High Risk Units¹,²

- 1. High Risk Units: Employees and providers with symptoms or high risk exposures cannot work in high risk units:
  - Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)
- 2. Non-High Risk Units: Employees and providers with symptoms or high risk exposures should consult with attending/supervisor to prevent contact with high risk populations across all inpatient needs.
  - Immunocompromised patients (Solid organ transplant (SOT), SOT listed, SOT evaluation in process, primary immunodeficiency, and receiving immunosuppressants including chronic high-dosage steroid, chemotherapy, biologics)