

**CLIENT UPDATE: CDC Issues Return to Work Guidance for Critical Infrastructure Workers**  
**April 9, 2020**

On April 8, the CDC released interim guidance recommending return to work procedures for those critical infrastructure workers who may have been exposed to COVID-19. This guidance pertains to: 1) federal, state, and local law enforcement, 2) 911 call center employees, 3) Fusion Center employees, 4) public and private hazardous material responders, 5) janitorial and other custodial staff, 6) workers and vendors in food and agriculture, critical manufacturing, information technology, transportation, energy, and government facilities.

The CDC recognizes that even when exposed to COVID-19, critical infrastructure workers who remain asymptomatic may continue working outside of their homes. When an employee has been potentially exposed to COVID-19, employers should take certain precautions. “Potential exposure” includes household contact or close contact with an individual who is suspected to have, or is confirmed to have, COVID-19. The timeframe for contact includes 48 *before* the individual became symptomatic.

In this context, to protect the health and safety of staff, the CDC recommends employers take the following precautions:

- **Pre-screen employees returning to work:** before an asymptomatic employee enters the facility, take the employee’s temperature and assess their symptoms
- **Regular monitoring:** under the supervision of the employer’s occupational health program, asymptomatic employees should self-monitor their symptoms
- **Wear a mask:** employees should wear face masks at all times, especially within 14 days of last exposure to COVID-19.
- **Social distancing:** whenever possible, employees should practice social distancing and stay at least six feet apart
- **Disinfect and clean work spaces:** employers should regularly clean and disinfect all areas, including offices, bathrooms, common areas, and shared electronic equipment. Whenever possible, employees should not share headsets or other office equipment.

The CDC’s return to work guidance is available [here](#). Of course, employers should encourage employees who do not feel well to stay home. If an employee develops symptoms at work, send them home immediately. For more information, please contact Peter Lowe at [plowe@brannlaw.com](mailto:plowe@brannlaw.com) or 207-754-5674, or Dan Stockford at [dstockford@brannlaw.com](mailto:dstockford@brannlaw.com) or 207-607-3290.