

## COVID-19 Outbreak Guidance for Businesses

04/08/2020

### Preventing Outbreaks

Businesses should implement measures to enable social distancing as much as possible.

- Consider staggering shifts to reduce worker population at any given time.
- Stagger breaks to reduce staff interactions.
- Review procedures to identify ways to increase the physical separation of staff.

Businesses should prioritize hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette among employees.

- Businesses should provide or allow employees to wear their own homemade cloth facemasks.
- Businesses should provide hand sanitizer or handwashing opportunities as frequently as possible.

### Detecting Outbreaks

Screen all employees by taking their temperature and assessing for cough, sore throat, difficulty breathing or any other respiratory symptom at the beginning and end of each shift. For a screening algorithm visit:

<https://idph.iowa.gov/Portals/1/userfiles/7/bscreening%20algorithm%2003222020.pdf>

Exclude all employees reporting fever or respiratory symptoms (these cases will be directed to stay home and isolate themselves from other people and animals in the home) until they:

- Have had no fever for at least 72 hours (that is three full days of no fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers) **AND**
- Other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved) **AND**
- At least 7 days have passed since your symptoms first appeared.

Exclusion criteria must be followed with all symptomatic employees, regardless of whether the testing is completed (even if the employee tests negative for COVID-19 infection).

Please report to the Iowa Department of Public Health when 10% or greater of your employees are reporting COVID-19 symptoms (including fever, cough, sore throat, difficulty breathing, or any other respiratory symptom). Report to public health by filling out the survey at this link:

<https://redcap.idph.state.ia.us/surveys/?s=NRJ4FDMDPN>

### Managing Outbreaks

Coordinate with your occupational health provider to define a pathway to test symptomatic employees.

- Public health will approve State Hygienic Laboratory testing for symptomatic employees during outbreaks.
- The occupational health provider or employees' personal health providers will be responsible for collecting the nasopharyngeal swab for testing and following-up for medical care as needed.