

COVID-19 GUIDELINES

For Returning to Work

Effective December 23, 2021, Jackson Health System changed its return-to-work policy for employees who tested positive for COVID-19. We have also streamlined the process by using a new tool on JacksonBadgeBuddy.org to make it faster and easier to be cleared to return to work. When following these new procedures, employees are no longer required to visit Employee Health Services to be cleared to return to work.

Fully vaccinated employees can return to work after 5 days – not 10 – if they meet ALL of the following criteria:

- Fully vaccinated, regardless of whether they have received the booster
- Asymptomatic, including no fever for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medicine
- A negative antigen test, which can be done with an at-home kit, at a community testing site, or a Jackson facility. A negative PCR test is also acceptable.
- Proof of the negative test result must be uploaded to a new tool on JacksonBadgeBuddy.org, in addition to answering a few questions on the application in order to receive return-to-work clearance.
- Wearing a mask at all times for at least two weeks, regardless of what changes are made at the facility level.

Employees who are vaccinated should use the process above once they are feeling better between days 5 and 9. For those vaccinated employees who do not feel better until day 10 or after, proof of a negative antigen test is no longer required; however, these employees are still required to log into the tool on JacksonBadgeBuddy.org and complete the attestation.

Employees who are only partially vaccinated, unvaccinated, or immunocompromised will be required to wait 10 days, in addition to following the other criteria listed above. The only exception is a negative antigen test is not required for anyone who has completed the 10-day quarantine period.

Employees should reference Jackson e-mail communications for information on Jackson testing locations and hours of operation.