

To Occupational Health Clients and Area Employers

From Lydia Watson, M.D., Chief Medical Officer

Date March 20, 2020

Subject **Clarification for Employers Regarding COVID-19 Testing**

memo

We are experiencing a number of local employees calling or coming to our offices and emergency departments, indicating that their employers have directed them to get tested for COVID-19 and/or to receive a doctor's note as a condition of return to work.

In an effort to ensure sufficient supplies, the state has issued protocols for determining who is eligible for COVID-19 testing. MidMichigan Health will be following these protocols, which are subject to change as recommendations change. At this time, we are unable to test upon request or to provide return to work notes.

We recommend, based on CDC guidelines, that people who have fever, cough or shortness of breath, travel history or come in close contact with a person confirmed through laboratory testing to have COVID-19 isolate themselves at home and call their provider for further instructions. Upon talking with their provider, some patients may require an in-office evaluation, and some patients may be referred for a video visit with a MidMichigan Health provider for further triage and instructions. Patients who have recently traveled and are NOT experiencing symptoms should self-quarantine and self-monitor for a period of 14 days.

We know this is a very stressful and confusing time for everyone. We appreciate your understanding of the limitations of our role and our focus on caring for the seriously ill. Your support and understanding help conserve supplies, keep our local health care facilities from becoming overwhelmed, and may prevent the spread of disease. If you have questions or concerns about how and where to direct employees for work-related illness or injury during the current outbreak, please reach out to our Occupational Health representatives. You'll find their contact information at www.midmichigan.org/workplace/contacts.

For general advice on keeping your employees and customers safe, please consult your state or local health department or visit www.cdc.gov/coronavirus.

Thank you for your partnership with MidMichigan Health.