

TO: Medina County Business Owners
FROM: Krista Wasowski, Health Commissioner
DATE: March 18, 2020
RE: COVID-19 testing and return to work

I understand the concern of worksites for the safety of other employees, but it is not possible to have COVID-19 clearance testing for return to work. While laboratories now have COVID-19 testing capacity, there are limitations on the availability of the special swabbing kits used to collect that sample. There are a handful of suppliers trying to produce them quickly, but one of the largest is in northern Italy. The demand is worldwide, so we need to prioritize and conserve our Ohio supply.

Our testing system is moving to high risk and hospitalized patients only. If a person is tested they are being instructed to return home and stay isolated from other family members using guidance found here <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html>

Individuals testing positive are reported to the Health Department in the county of residence. Disease investigators will make contact and assure that the individual and all household members understand what is necessary for health management within the home and limitations of movement for all household members. Currently we are able to take a detailed history of previous movement of the person testing positive and can assess the need to notify additional individuals at risk for the illness.

Persons waiting for testing, and those family members staying at home with them, are not subject to notification to the Health Department. This is a shift from how this originally worked, so I need employers to know that the Health Department is unable to verify the testing status of any employee or family member. We only receive positive results and we currently now have knowledge of only those that we place under orders upon a positive result.