

**MTAHQ Safety - COVID-19 Guidance FAQ** – effective 5.28.24

**Q1. Am I required to isolate for 5 days following a positive COVID-19 test result?**

**Answer:** No. Employees are recommended to stay home and away from others until symptoms begin to resolve, and you have been fever-free (without use of fever-reducing medication) for at least 24 hours. *Current guidance for COVID-19 can be accessed on CDC's [Respiratory Illnesses](#) page.*

**Q2. Does the MTA require employees to wear masks while working (i.e., in order to prevent the spread of disease)?**

**Answer:** No. Masks are not required to be worn in any MTA facilities. However, masks are preferred to be worn in the MTA Medical Facilities, regardless of COVID status.

**Q3. Do I need to report my positive COVID test results to the self-service portal or the hotline?**

**Answer:** No. Employees are no longer required to report to MTA if they test positive for COVID. The COVID-19 self-service portal and the MTA COVID-19 hotline are no longer active for reporting. The COVID hotline will have a general message for guidance, but no live representatives to answer calls. *Current guidance for COVID-19 can be accessed on CDC's [Respiratory Illnesses](#) page.*

**Q4. I'm feeling sick with COVID symptoms. What should I do?**

**Answer:** Employees are encouraged to consult their medical provider for advice specific to their illness and follow New York State (NYS) and CDC's recommendations/guidance for respiratory illness symptoms, which include but are not limited to staying home and away from others until symptoms begin to resolve and you have been fever free (without use of fever-reducing medication) for at least 24 hours. Following their illness, employees are encouraged to practice good hygiene and wear a well-fitting mask for five days once they return to work.

**Q5. I'm not feeling sick, but I've tested positive for COVID (or have been exposed to someone who has COVID). What should I do?**

**Answer:** Employees should come to work. Employees are encouraged to monitor for symptoms and follow recommendations in Q4 if they become symptomatic.

**Q6. If I have tested positive and been informed by my doctor to stay home, do I need to get clearance from my doctor, or an MTA OHS nurse to return to work?**

**Answer:** No. Employees need to follow their normal sick policy. Employees are encouraged to follow guidance under Q4.

**Q7. If I am sick and test positive for COVID, can I use New York State COVID Paid Sick Leave (NYSCPSL)?**

**Answer:** No. Employees are required to use their personal sick leave if they are too ill to report to work. Effective May 28, 2024, NYSCPSL is only available when a quarantine or isolation order is issued by a public health authority. The NYSCPL expires July 31, 2025.

**Q8. Can I get time off or paid leave if I receive the COVID vaccine or a COVID booster shot?**

**Answer:** No. The COVID vaccine leave/pay program ended December 31, 2023.

**Q9. Can I get paid leave if I have side effects from the COVID vaccine or COVID Booster shot?**

**Answer:** No. You must use your available sick leave balances.

**Q10. Can I telework because of COVID?**

**Answer:** No. Telework is not authorized solely based on a COVID diagnosis. Please speak with your manager/supervisor concerning telework.