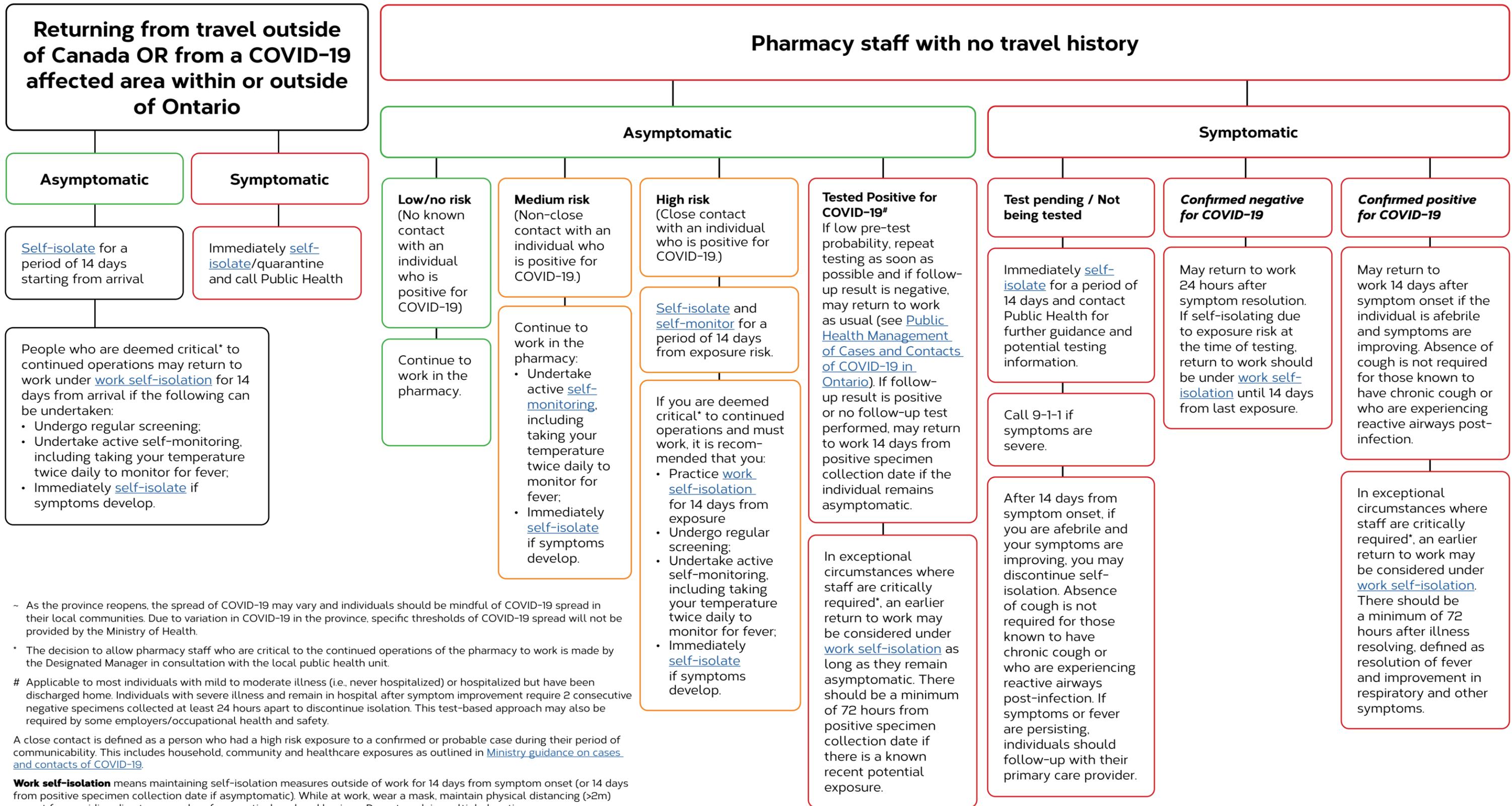


Pharmacy Staff Affected from COVID-19 Return to Work Guidance

August 7, 2020



~ As the province reopens, the spread of COVID-19 may vary and individuals should be mindful of COVID-19 spread in their local communities. Due to variation in COVID-19 in the province, specific thresholds of COVID-19 spread will not be provided by the Ministry of Health.

* The decision to allow pharmacy staff who are critical to the continued operations of the pharmacy to work is made by the Designated Manager in consultation with the local public health unit.

Applicable to most individuals with mild to moderate illness (i.e., never hospitalized) or hospitalized but have been discharged home. Individuals with severe illness and remain in hospital after symptom improvement require 2 consecutive negative specimens collected at least 24 hours apart to discontinue isolation. This test-based approach may also be required by some employers/occupational health and safety.

A close contact is defined as a person who had a high risk exposure to a confirmed or probable case during their period of communicability. This includes household, community and healthcare exposures as outlined in [Ministry guidance on cases and contacts of COVID-19](#).

Work self-isolation means maintaining self-isolation measures outside of work for 14 days from symptom onset (or 14 days from positive specimen collection date if asymptomatic). While at work, wear a mask, maintain physical distancing (>2m) except for providing direct care, and perform meticulous hand hygiene. Do not work in multiple locations.

References

1. <https://www.opatoday.com/Media/Default/Default/CMOH%20Memo%20Health%20Worker%20Illness%20and%20Return%20to%20Work%202020-03-19.pdf>
2. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/health-professionals/interim-guidance-cases-contacts.html>
3. http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/2019_testing_clearing_cases_guidance.pdf
4. COVID-19 Operational Requirements: Health Sector Restart Version 2 - June 15, 2020