



VRI Staff

VIRAL RESPIRATORY ILLNESS (VRI) STAFF Reporting Process and Return to Work Restrictions

All Island Health Staff will:
Self monitor for symptoms
Follow routine and enhanced precautions
([Infection Prevention & Control Precautions](#))

If employee develops symptoms suggestive of active VRI and **does not** feel well enough to work:
Employee to be off work

If employee remains symptom free and/or feels well enough to work:
No work restrictions

Employee may return to work when:
No longer experiencing fever without the use of fever reducing medicine and **you feel well enough to work**

Upon returning to work, all HCWs must do the following:

- o Wear a medical mask until day 10 from onset of VRI symptoms/illness or test date (if asymptomatic), even if asymptomatic/symptoms have resolved;
- o Respect personal space; and,
- o Continue to follow hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene and other workplace IPC measures.

There is no specific timeframe before returning to work; it is based on your symptoms and ability to resume normal activities

In the event of a workplace exposure or outbreak*:

Notify Staffing Office of absence

Suspected VRI: Contact your **OH&S Employee Health Nurse**
Suspected COVID: Contact the **Provincial Workplace HealthCall Centre**

*Employees who work in multiple departments within one shift should start work on a **non-outbreak** unit and finish their shift on the **outbreak** unit

If mild residual respiratory symptoms persist (e.g., runny nose, sore throat, mild headache, residual cough), **the HCW may return to work when they feel well enough**, while wearing a medical mask at all times and following the return to work precautions.

Symptoms of VRI may include: feve or chills, cough (new or worsening), difficulty breathing, extreme fatigue, body aches

Note: the majority of HCW'S do NOT need to test for COVID-19, and can return to workwhen their fever is resolved and they feel well enough to work.