

GUIDANCE MEMORANDUM

Ron DeSantis
Governor

DATE: September 8, 2020

Barbara Palmer
Director

SUBJECT: Facility Residents Returning to Work

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The residents of APD-licensed facilities have remained in self-quarantine over the past several months to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Many facility residents who work in the community have expressed concern over the potential loss of their jobs and have indicated a strong desire to return to work. In order for this to occur, facility operators must take precautions to ensure that residents returning to community jobs do not put themselves or other residents at risk.

Before returning to work, the facility operator should verify that the resident's legal representative, if one has been appointed, is agreeable to the person returning to work. The operator should also speak with either the resident's supported employment coach or employer to clarify what PPE the resident will be required to wear on the job and whether such PPE will be provided by the employer or by the resident.

Additionally, the facility operator should verify the reporting protocols the employer has implemented for alerting employees of any positive COVID-19 employees, as well as any potential reporting the employer expects the facility to make if someone living or working in the facility has a positive COVID-19 test. If any employee at the resident's place of employment tests positive for COVID-19, the resident should be placed in quarantine and not report back to work for 14 days.

Prior to allowing a resident to return to work, the facility should educate the resident on social distancing practices and the PPE required by the employer to be continuously worn while at the job site. Additionally, the resident should be educated on the common symptoms of COVID-19 and the requirement that they must remain at home and not attend work if they are sick or if COVID-19 symptoms develop.

Upon returning to the facility, the resident must follow the visitor protocols for entry. If there are indications of exposure or symptoms, the resident shall be placed in quarantine until a definitive determination is made.