



Updated WorkMed Guidance for COVID-19 (virus outbreak) To Employers

26 March 2020

We continue to monitor the Coronavirus outbreak to ensure our WorkMed policies/procedures allow appropriate, healthy and safe access to essential services. Every possible effort is being made to keep WorkMed clinics available to meet the needs of the well workers within our communities. We do not want to expose your employees knowingly as we are not a primary care/urgent care facility, nor are we a mixed model of both Occupation Health and Urgent Care where sick patients can cross contaminate your healthy employees. Our WorkMed is NOT open to injured workers with sickness so we can protect your workforce. For this purpose, we have provided this update of our clinical operations below. As always, please call or contact your local WorkMed clinic with questions or concerns.

- We ARE OPEN and continue to see work-related injuries and follow up visits with WELL persons in clinic that have no signs of COVID-19. In many cases, our providers may elect to do follow-up visits via telehealth (video conferencing or phone calls) to continue care but also prevent exposure in clinic.
- The timing of follow-up visits with injured workers will be dependent on the severity of the injury. To minimize risk and adhere to social distancing, providers may delay follow-up care to several days beyond normal practice. If you have concerns with the provider's follow-up scheduling, please feel free to reach out to the case manager, clinic manager or provider to collaborate on timing of follow-up visits.
- We continue to see essential pre-employment physicals, drug screens, and DOT physicals for new drivers and drivers with expiring medical cards.

DOT physicals: FMCSA announced on March 25, 2020 a waiver for some DOT medical cards until June 30th. As a result, we ask that all DOT physicals be sent to us or scheduled on May 15 or thereafter.

There are three exceptions:

- 1- If the driver's DOT medical card expired before March 1st, 2020 (must be seen),
 - 2- if the driver is currently on a 90-day card or less (must be seen),
 - 3- those who have never had a card (must be seen).
- Consistent with government public health efforts and social distancing, we are not performing routine, non-essential surveillance exams. We are scheduling appointments and currently anticipate resuming these exams after May 1st. This date may change depending on how the outbreak proceeds.
 - Also consistent with national professional guidance, we are suspending routine pulmonary function testing (PFTs). Performing PFTs may aerosolize and spread respiratory illness in persons who are contagious but not yet symptomatic.
 - We have adjusted check-in and waiting room procedures to limit the number of persons waiting in close proximity. Please assist in this effort by limiting to 1 accompanying well visitor, if any.
 - We recommend that employers follow CDC guidance for COVID-19 in workplaces (please reference: [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)) by actively encouraging sick employees to stay home. If employees need medical assistance for

their illness or have questions about COVID-19, please have the employee call his/her healthcare provider's office, use Intermountain's Connect Care service, or call the Utah Coronavirus Information Line at 1-800-456-7707.

- Individuals with symptoms of fever, cough, or shortness of breath (consistent with COVID-19) should be evaluated and treated as necessary and recovered **BEFORE** accessing services at a WorkMed clinic.
- In the rare case an employee needs **urgent** work-related injury care and has a personal illness consistent with COVID-19 (fever, cough, shortness of breath), please contact the InstaCare or Emergency department depending on the urgency of the injury and arrange to be seen at either of these facilities.

We appreciate working with you and value the opportunity to provide services to you and your employees. As things change with the evolution of the Covid-19 virus, we will keep you informed. Thank you as we work together to keep your employees healthy and back to work.

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