Screening Guidance for Colleagues Who Received the COVID-19 Vaccine

Updated December 15, 2020

All patients, including colleagues, will be screened for active infection symptoms at registration prior to receiving the COVID-19 vaccination.

Following vaccination, mild side-effects such as fever, muscle aches, headache, joint aches, or chills have been reported. Colleagues who experience fever, muscle aches, headache, joint aches, or chills within two calendar days of vaccination will be permitted to work if they are well enough to work.

Colleagues should continue to follow their ministry’s established COVID-19 screening process to determine eligibility to work. Additionally, colleagues should follow established processes for being evaluated by Employee/Occupational Health if they are:

- Not well enough to work, or
- Experience a cough, or
- Experience inability to taste or smell, or
- Have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 that last beyond 2 calendar days

Colleagues who have non-COVID-19 symptoms should follow the established department process for reporting that they are not feeling well. Colleagues should follow up with their primary care physician as appropriate.

NEW: Important guidance for colleague supervisors
The standard COVID-19 screening has been updated to reference the COVID-19 vaccine. Colleagues will be asked the following questions during screening:

1. Do you have any of the following symptoms that have started or gotten worsen in the past 48 hours: fever (>100), cough, shortness of breath, loss of taste, loss of smell, vomiting?

2. Do you have 2 or more of the following symptoms that are NEW or gotten worse in the past 48 hours? You do not have to include symptoms you may have a history of routinely experiencing such as seasonal allergies.
   a. Chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, diarrhea, congestion, runny nose.

3. Have you received a COVID-19 vaccine in the last 2 calendar days AND answered YES to either question 1 or 2? If YES, contact your supervisor or established ministry protocol for instruction on whether to report to work today.

If you answer YES to question #3 (have received a COVID-19 vaccine) and answer YES to either questions 1 and/or 2, colleagues should be asked the following follow-up questions to determine if they should report to work or not.

Ask: Do you have cough, shortness of breath, runny nose, sore throat, loss of taste or smell?
• If yes, these are NOT side effects of the vaccine and the colleague should follow the established colleague assessment to determine eligibility to work.
• If no, ask the next question.

Ask: Do you have fever, muscle aches/joint aches, chills, or headache?

• If yes, these are likely vaccine side effects.
• If the colleague feels well enough to work, they may be permitted to work.
• If the colleague does not feel well enough to work, the colleague should follow the established colleague assessment to determine next steps.