




INFORMATION BULLETIN

TO: All Fire Department Personnel
FROM: Joel G. Baker, *Fire Chief* 
DATE: August 17, 2023
SUBJECT: Expiration of COVID Disaster Declaration in Texas

Effective September 1, 2023, the COVID Disaster Declaration in Texas and the designation of COVID as a Presumptive illness and/or disease will expire.

What this means for Civil Service is:

1. Anyone that tests positive for COVID after September 1, 2023 will have to use personal time while in quarantine and if medical treatment is sought, you will be required to use your health insurance.
2. COVID Vaccine reaction claims are included in the COVID disaster declaration. Therefore, vaccine reaction claims under Workers' Compensation will no longer be covered on or after September 1, 2023.
3. The expiration of the declaration does not prevent you from filing a Workers' Compensation Claim or a First Report of Injury (FROI). However, COVID and vaccine reaction Workers' Comp claims will be denied by Sedgwick on or after September 1, 2023.

The Wellness Center will continue to be available for guidance but will no longer be performing case management for COVID cases beginning September 1, 2023.

For personnel who test **positive** for COVID-19 on or after September 1, 2023, please follow the guidance below:

1. Do not go to work.
2. If there is a medical emergency please contact 911 or go to the ER.
3. If you are immunocompromised or have other health concerns, contact your primary care provider for further guidance. If you do not have a primary care provider, the City has contracted with a clinic that is dedicated to city employees only. The designated City clinic is Premise Health, located at 5202 E. Ben White Blvd Ste 500 Austin, TX 78741. They can also be reached at 512-643-4050.

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4. You may return back to work if **ALL** of the following criteria have been met:
 - If symptomatic, self-isolate for 5 days since symptoms first appear. If asymptomatic, self-isolate for 5 days from positive result.
 - At least 24 hours have passed since last fever **without** fever reducing drugs.
 - No flu like symptoms; mild cough is okay.
 - Able to perform interval based or cardio workout that simulates fire-related job tasks without signs of nausea, headache, dizziness, fatigue, or shortness of breath.
 - After 5 days you **must** have a negative antigen/home self-test.

The Wellness Center will continue to monitor the situation and will provide updates on the possibility for future COVID vaccination opportunities based on CDC guidance. Please direct any questions to the Wellness Center at 512-974-0200.