



Department of Human Resources

TO: All University Employees
FROM: Mr. Fred Cratty, Chief Human Resources Officer
RE: Paid Covid-19 Leave Time
DATE: March 12, 2024

On Friday, March 1st, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released updated recommendations for protection from respiratory viruses, including Covid-19. The new guidance, adopted by the State Connecticut, provides a unified approach to addressing common respiratory viral illnesses, such as Covid-19, flu, and RSV and can be found here: [Respiratory Virus Guidance \(cdc.gov\)](https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-virus-guidance).

Employees testing positive for Covid-19 no longer need to notify the Human Resources department. **Paid Covid leave is no longer available in the event of a positive Covid-19 diagnosis.** Employees should use accrued leave when staying home due to illness. Any Covid-19 leave requests submitted prior to March 11, 2024, will be reviewed and if approved, paid leave may be provided through March 10, 2024.

The updated guidance recommends you stay home when sick with a respiratory virus and return to work when you are fever free (without the aid of medication) for 24 hours and symptoms are improving. There is no longer a 5-day isolation period.

Additionally, employees are encouraged to take precautionary measures when returning to work to prevent the spread of illness to others, including practicing good hygiene, wearing a well-fitting mask, and keeping distance from others to the extent possible. Employees are also encouraged but not mandated to keep up to date with vaccinations. As the CDC Director noted, this updated guidance reflects the progress made over the past 4 years in protecting against severe illness from Covid-19 and we appreciate everyone's efforts to protect one another.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 203-837-8665 or via e-mail at crattyf@wcsu.edu.