



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

Dear San Antonio and Bexar County Employer,

We know that employers are concerned about the health of their employees, customers, and the community. Recently, we have received reports that some employers are requiring employees to provide evidence of a negative COVID-19 test before they can return to work.

We appreciate your dedication to the health of your employees and our community and can understand the concern. However, we are not recommending COVID-19 testing before returning to work.

Criteria for testing are evolving as we learn more about COVID-19, and include fever or signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness such as cough or shortness of breath (*required* for all). Specifics and up-to-date testing criteria can be found on our website at <https://sanantonio.gov/covid19>. Depending on the individual, other requirements may include:

1. Close contact with a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 case, or
 2. Severe acute respiratory illness requiring hospitalization, or
 3. Travel history
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4. Exclusion of other significant respiratory illness such as the flu, and/or
 5. Risk factors for poor health outcomes and/or
 6. Being a healthcare worker or first responder

Employees who do not meet the criteria will not be able to be tested for COVID-19 and will not be able to provide a negative test.

Metro Health is encouraging employers to consider ways to support social distancing by employees, including options for remote work, moving meetings online, and alternative work schedules to reduce the number of employees in a workspace at once. Employees who are feeling ill should stay home. Metro Health encourages employers to offer paid sick leave.

Thank you for partnering with us for a healthy San Antonio.

Sincerely,

Junda Woo, MD, MPH
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San Antonio Metropolitan Health District

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