

#Safe Return

When is it safe to return to workplaces?

When: State and local stay-at-home orders have been lifted.

When: Agencies have taken the following steps:

- Have widespread COVID-19 testing for federal employees.
- Thoroughly cleaned and disinfected all workspaces and common areas.
- Made necessary adjustments to the workplace to ensure safe physical distancing.
- Fully stocked supplies of hand-sanitizer, wipes, and gloves (for those handling mail).
- Developed a process for taking temperatures of employees before they enter the building (recognizing that CDC now acknowledges asymptomatic transmission).
- Provided and permitted cloth face coverings in the workplace.

When: Maximum telework remains an option for employees whose work may be performed from a telework location. This is particularly important for employees with children whose schools or child-care facilities are closed. These employees should be provided maxi-flex work schedule options that allow unpaid breaks over the course of the day for caring responsibilities while also allowing employees to accomplish their work without having to use personal leave.

When: Employees who are “high risk” can remain at home on telework or weather and safety leave if telework is not an option.

**Employees should not be required to return to the office until it is safe.
Join NTEU in calling for a #SafeReturn.**

*These standards also apply to federal worksites that never closed where employees continued to report to duty throughout the crisis.