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As the Coronavirus pandemic spreads throughout the United States, and here in Rhode Island, we are committed to providing the highest quality care to our patients. We strive to remain current with guidelines from the Center of Disease Control and Prevention as well as the Rhode Island Department of Health.

For patients requesting notes to return to work, below is the criteria identified by the Rhode Island Department of Health to identify when it is appropriate to return to work:

1. Any domestic or international air travel, as well as cruises, requires fourteen (14) days of self-quarantine. Do NOT go to work, school, or in public places.
2. For patients with ANY signs of respiratory illness (cough, fever, congestion): return to work **only when the following criteria are met**

***No fever for at least 72 hours** (three (3)) days without the use of medicines that reduce fever

AND

***Other symptoms have improved** (cough, respiratory difficulty, shortness of breath)

AND

***At least seven (7) days have passed since your symptoms first appeared**

(These directions do not apply to healthcare workers. Please call and speak with your provider for guidance.)

Guidance from the Center of Disease Control and Prevention states testing or a return to work note is not necessary.

(<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html>)

Sincerely,

The Team at South Internal Medicine
A Patient Centered Medical Home