Revised CDC isolation timeline may prompt workplace policy changes

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Debra Steiner Friedman discussed with HR Dive about the CDC's guidance for those not requiring hospitalization may be useful to employers in determining whether employees who have COVID-19 may return to work. Employers may, for example, have policies in place requiring employees who test positive for COVID-19 to quarantine from the workplace for 14 days, a timeline previously referenced by the CDC in its guidance for individuals with COVID-19 or who tested positive for the disease. "While that still may be appropriate in many cases, we are learning that this is not a one-size-fits-all rule," she said. "Accordingly, at this time employers should consider policies that allow employees to return to the workplace 10 days after the date of a positive COVID-19 test if they never develop symptoms, and to extend the 14-day standard time away from work if employees need additional time to recover due to severe illness as a result of COVID-19."

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