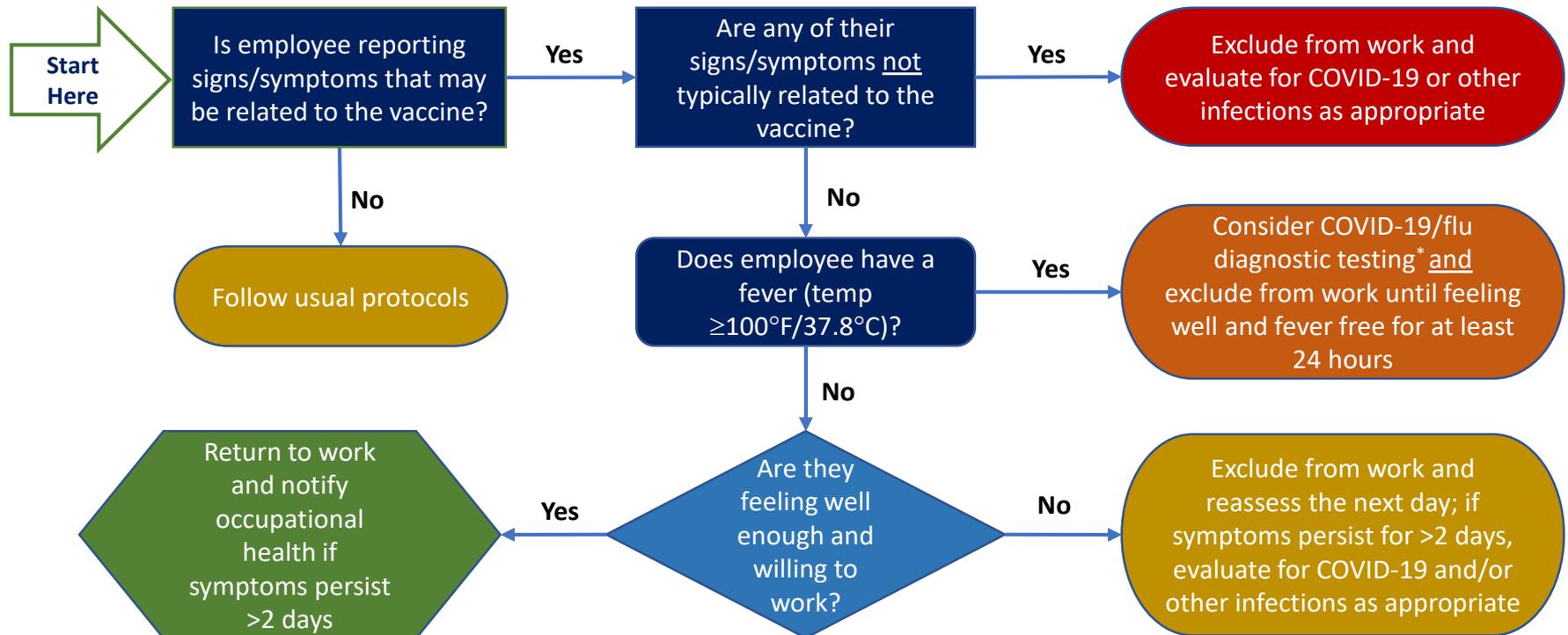# Considerations for Employees Experiencing Potential Side Effects After Receiving a COVID-19 Vaccine

This tool is designed to aid in the evaluation of healthcare workers/employees who are reporting potential side effects within 3 days of receiving a COVID-19 vaccine (day 1=day of vaccination). These considerations are based on our current understanding of mRNA vaccine side effects and may evolve as we gain more information.

Side effects following COVID-19 vaccination can include *fever, fatigue, headache, chills, muscle aches, and joint pain*. Most side effects:
- Are mild to moderate in severity
- Occur within the first three days of vaccination, most occurring the day after vaccination
- Resolve within 1-2 days of onset
- Are more frequent and severe following the second dose and among younger persons compared to older adults

Cough, shortness of breath, runny nose, congestion, sore throat, and loss of taste or smell are not consistent with post-vaccination symptoms, and instead may be symptoms of COVID-19 or another infection.

Start Here

Is employee reporting signs/symptoms that may be related to the vaccine? — **Yes** → Are any of their signs/symptoms not typically related to the vaccine? — **Yes** → Exclude from work and evaluate for COVID-19 or other infections as appropriate

Is employee reporting signs/symptoms that may be related to the vaccine? — **No** → Follow usual protocols

Are any of their signs/symptoms not typically related to the vaccine? — **No** → Does employee have a fever (temp ≥100°F/37.8°C)? — **Yes** → Consider COVID-19/flu diagnostic testing* and exclude from work until feeling well and fever free for at least 24 hours

Does employee have a fever (temp ≥100°F/37.8°C)? — **No** → Are they feeling well enough and willing to work? — **No** → Exclude from work and reassess the next day; if symptoms persist for >2 days, evaluate for COVID-19 and/or other infections as appropriate

Are they feeling well enough and willing to work? — **Yes** → Return to work and notify occupational health if symptoms persist >2 days

*Nucleic acid amplification (NAA) test preferred. If an antigen test is used, negative results should be confirmed with a NAA.

Adapted from CDC's Post Vaccine Considerations for Healthcare Personnel; 12/22/2020