

Healthcare Worker Exposure to COVID-19

Healthcare facilities, in consultation with public health authorities, should use clinical judgement as well as the principles outlined in this guidance to assign risk and determine need for work restrictions. Based on the needs of individual jurisdictions, and at the discretion of state or local health authorities, these Healthcare Workers (HCW) may be permitted to continue work following potential exposure to COVID-19 (either travel-associated or close contact to a confirmed case), provided they remain asymptomatic.

Low Risk Exposure

Defined as: Brief interactions with patients with COVID-19 or prolonged close contact* (within 6 ft and greater than a few minutes) with patients who were wearing a facemask for source control while HCW was wearing a facemask or respirator

Asymptomatic HCW May Work

Performs self monitoring 2X day for 14 days after last contact with COVID + patient

MUST mask when on facility premises

MUST notify Employee Health if symptoms develop

Medium Risk Exposure

Defined as: Prolonged close contact with patients with COVID-19 who were wearing a facemask while HCW nose and mouth were exposed or HCW who was wearing a gown, gloves, eye protection and a facemask (instead of a respirator) during an aerosol-generating procedure

HCW Off Work for 14 days

Perform self monitoring 2X day for 14 days after last contact with COVID + patient

MUST mask when on facility premises

MUST notify Employee Health if symptoms develop

Asymptomatic HCW may return to work on day 15

High Risk Exposure

Defined as: HCW who had prolonged close contact with patients with COVID-19 while not wearing a facemask **OR** household member tests positive for COVID-19 **OR** personal travel to a country on Level 3 or 4 travel alert

HCW Off Work for 14 days

Perform self monitoring 2X day for 14 days after last contact with COVID + patient

MUST mask when on facility premises

MUST notify Employee Health if symptoms develop

Asymptomatic HCW may return to work on day 15

If symptoms develop for occupationally exposed employees:

1. Notify Employee Health and Manager
2. Employee will be screened and as appropriate, sent for testing
3. Employee off of work until test results received:
 - Negative** – Must remain off work until symptoms have resolved and at least 24 hours since the fever has resolved without fever reducing medications. Must mask for 14 days after date of exposure
 - Positive** – At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and** improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); **and**, at least 7 days have passed since symptoms first appeared. HCW must adhere to respiratory hygiene, hand hygiene, and cough etiquette, wear a facemask at all times while in the healthcare facility, if there is a sufficient supply of facemasks, until all symptoms are completely resolved or until 14 days after illness onset, whichever is longer. Be restricted from contact with severely immunocompromised patients until 14 days after illness onset. Self Monitor for symptoms and seek reevaluation if signs and symptoms reoccur or worsen

*Consult with local public health to ensure consensus on defining prolonged close contact