

Northwestern Medicine
 Department of Healthcare Epidemiology and Infection Prevention and Corporate Health Services
 Healthcare Provider (HCP) COVID-19 Exposure Guide

What is the Exposure Management process for COVID-19?

If a patient or HCP is identified as a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 case, all potentially exposed HCP will be assessed for risk of exposure.

- Risk of exposure depends on the amount of contact with the patient, the type of exposure and the type of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) worn at that time.
- All HCP with possible exposure will be notified by their manager/director of their exposure and will need to complete an employee incident report (EIR).
- *HCP can continue to work after potential exposure as long as following the below actions and not symptomatic.*
- Contact your Infection Preventionist for assistance in identifying exposed staff

Please note these key definitions:

- **Exposure-** day minus 2 through day 14 (i.e., day zero being first day of clinical symptoms) of being in contact with a COVID-19 positive person without PPE.
- **Contact-** being within 6 feet for routine care, or in the same room if present during an aerosol-generating procedure (AGP), or entering the room within 35 minutes of an AGP in an All room or within 70 minutes in a non-All room, all without PPE or direct contact with contaminated fomites without performing hand hygiene prior to touching eyes, nose or mouth.

Situation	Exposure	Action
If either HCP or patient masked (mask = surgical, procedural or equivalent)	None (unless AGP performed)	None; continue to go through employee screening at clinical facilities and follow universal masking guidelines
If both HCP and patient unmasked with contact of ≤ 2 minutes	None (unless AGP performed)	None; continue to go through employee screening at clinical facilities and follow universal masking guidelines
If both HCP and patient unmasked with contact between 2-30 minutes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For 14 days after last exposure, self-monitor with symptom and temperature check twice daily and call 312-47COVID if become symptomatic • Complete employee incident report (EIR) • Asymptomatic staff can continue to work • Continue to go through employee screening at clinical facilities and follow universal masking guidelines
If both HCP and patient unmasked with contact > 30 minutes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For 14 days after last exposure, participate in twice daily temperature and symptom monitoring through electronic system* • Complete employee incident report (EIR) • Asymptomatic staff can continue to work • Continue to go through employee screening at clinical facilities and follow universal masking guidelines

Infection Prevention on-call can be paged 24/7 for any questions or concerns at:
WEST - CDH/Delnor/Kish/VW/Marianjoy/RMG 630.255.1293
CENTRAL - NMH/NMG 312.695.9196
NORTH-NORTHWEST - LFH/McHenry/Huntley/Woodstock 312.695.9483

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If HCP involved in any contact in which AGP was performed, and HCP not wearing an N95 respirator Plus eye protection	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For 14 days after last exposure, participate in twice daily temperature and symptom monitoring through electronic system* • Complete employee incident report (EIR) • Asymptomatic staff can continue to work • Continue to go through employee screening at clinical facilities and follow universal masking guidelines
If HCP has a household contact who has COVID-19 (case)	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Furloughed from work for minimum of 14 days from when the case was first symptomatic • Call COVID hotline to begin return to work process

*IP will enter HCP in SafetyNet for electronic monitoring of symptoms

What should I do if I have been exposed?

- HCP can continue to work after potential exposure as long as following the above actions and not symptomatic.
- HCP who are enrolled in the twice/daily electronic symptom and temperature monitoring system will receive an email notification with instructions.
- HCP with low risk of exposure must monitor their symptoms and temperature twice a day and enrollment in the electronic system is not indicated.
- All HCP who are part of an exposure and asymptomatic should follow the above guidelines, and if questions, call **312.47.COVID (26843)** to discuss next steps.
- Every day before leaving home for work, you should take your temperature. If you have a temperature ($\geq 100.0F$) and respiratory symptoms, you should not report to work. If a HCP becomes symptomatic while at home, they should call **312.47.COVID (26843)** for further guidance and should remain home until contacted by Corporate Health.
- If a HCP becomes symptomatic while at work, they must cease patient care activities, don a facemask (if not already wearing one), and notify their supervisor prior to leaving work. They should then call **312.47.COVID (26843)** for further guidance and should remain home until contacted by Corporate Health.
- If you have an immediate question about a potential exposure, call **312.47.COVID (26843)** and listen to the prompts so your question is appropriately triaged.
- The COVID line hours of operation are: M-F 7a-8pm, Sa/Sun 8a-8pm. Please call during regular business hours. If you need to speak with someone urgently, page the Infection Prevention on-call pager.

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