



## COVID-19 Close Contact Determination in Patient Care Settings

[www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assesment-hcp.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assesment-hcp.html)

[www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/faq.html#Infection-Control](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/faq.html#Infection-Control)

1. Was the exposed person within six feet of the infected person for a total of 15 minutes or more in a 24-hour period **OR** did they have unprotected contact with secretions or excretions of the infected person, such as being coughed on, changing diapers, or providing personal care without PPE? **If YES, the exposed person is a close contact**
2. Did close contact occur outside of a healthcare setting? **If YES, close contact must quarantine**
3. Did the close contact occur in a healthcare setting within six feet for 15 minutes or more? **If YES, see below to assess quarantine needs**

### SCENARIO A: EXPOSED HEALTHCARE WORKER (HCW)

**INFECTED  
PATIENT**

	No PPE worn by HCW during exposure	Face mask or N-95 respirator worn by HCW during exposure (but no eye protection)	Face mask or N-95 respiration <u>and</u> eye protection worn by HCW during exposure	N-95 respirator, eye protection, gloves, and gown worn by HCW during exposure during aerosol-generating procedure
Infected patient was <u>not wearing a face mask</u> during exposure	Quarantine	Quarantine	No work restrictions or quarantine*	-NA-
Infected patient was <u>wearing a face mask or N-95 respirator</u> during exposure	Quarantine	No restrictions, in general, if both parties were wearing at least a medical face mask properly. <i>Consider quarantine depending on room ventilation, duration and type of care provided during close contact, and sustained mask wearing during exposure.</i>	No work restrictions or quarantine*	-NA-
Aerosol-generating procedure	Quarantine	Quarantine	Quarantine	No work restrictions or quarantine*

\* HCW should follow all [recommended infection prevention and control practices](#), including wearing a face mask for source control while at work, monitoring themselves for [symptoms consistent with COVID-19](#) and not reporting to work when ill, and undergoing active screening for fever or [symptoms consistent with COVID-19](#) at the beginning of their shift. Any HCW who develop [symptoms consistent with COVID-19](#) should immediately self-isolate and contact their established point of contact, such as their occupational health program, to arrange for medical evaluation and testing.

**SCENARIO B: EXPOSED PATIENT**

	<b>Exposed patient was <u>not wearing</u> a face mask during exposure</b>	<b>Assess PPE worn by patient during exposure, such as face mask, N-95, face shield, etc.</b>
<b>Infected HCW was <u>not wearing</u> a face mask during exposure</b>	Quarantine	Perform risk assessment (see below)
<p><b>Determine PPE/source control worn by infected HCW during exposure:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Face mask</b></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>N-95 respirator</b></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Eye protection</b></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Face shield</b></li> </ul>	<p>Perform risk assessment to determine need for patient to quarantine. Anyone who had prolonged close contact (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes) should be considered potentially exposed. The use of a face mask for source control and adherence to other recommended infection prevention and control measures, such as hand hygiene, by the healthcare worker help to reduce the risk of transmission or severe illness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Type of interaction</b> that occurred between the patient and infected provider <i>An interaction involving manipulation or prolonged close contact with the patient’s eyes, nose, or mouth, such as dental cleaning, likely poses higher risk of transmission to the patient compared to other interactions, such as checking blood pressure.</i></li> <li>• <b>Ventilation</b> of the space where interaction occurred <i>A small room without negative pressure or frequent air exchanges per hour likely poses higher risk of transmission to the patient compared to a negative pressure room or room with frequent air exchanges per hour.</i></li> <li>• <b>Face mask</b> worn by patient <i>Patients not wearing a face mask would likely be at higher risk for infection compared to those that were wearing a face mask.</i></li> <li>• <b>PPE worn by infected HCW</b> <i>An HCW wearing a face mask or respirator and a face shield that extends below the chin might have had better source control than wearing only a face mask. Note that respirators with exhalation valves do not provide source control.</i></li> <li>• <b>Symptoms of infected HCW</b> during the patient interaction <i>The presence of symptoms such as cough may pose greater risk for transmission.</i></li> <li>• <b>Current health status of patient</b> <i>Is the patient currently admitted to a hospital or long-term care facility? These individuals, if infected, can be at higher risk for severe illness and have the potential to expose large numbers of individuals at risk for severe disease.</i></li> </ul>	

**INFECTED  
HEALTHCARE  
WORKER (HCW)**

## Notes

- Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) case investigators use this tool and the [COVID-19 Isolation and Quarantine Calculator](#) to assess who is a close contact of a person with COVID-19 in patient care settings.
- In cases where outreach to a practice is not possible or is delayed, RIDOH encourages practices to use these two tools to identify those who have been in close contact with the person testing positive and should quarantine, or in cases of low risk, watch for symptoms.
- RIDOH encourages practices to use these tools to identify and inform staff and patients who should quarantine and who should self-monitor for symptoms for 14 days from exposure.
- RIDOH also encourages practices to download and use [this spreadsheet](#) to list potentially exposed staff and patients in the infectious period with their phone numbers and dates of birth, perform a risk assessment, and determine an action for each as noted below. Return completed spreadsheets to [RIDOH.COVID19LineLists@health.ri.gov](mailto:RIDOH.COVID19LineLists@health.ri.gov).
  - **High risk:** quarantine
  - **Low to medium risk:** inform or send letter to those who were near the infected person but do not meet the criteria to quarantine to self-monitor for symptoms for 14 days
    - Medical letter template: [English](#) | [Spanish](#)
    - Dental letter template: [English](#) | [Spanish](#)
  - **No risk:** no action
- A close contact must quarantine if the contact with a COVID-19-infected person occurred during the infected person's infectious period.
  - **If the infected person had [COVID-19 symptoms](#),** the infectious period is two days before symptoms first appeared until they meet criteria to discontinue [home isolation](#).
  - **If the infected person did not have [COVID-19 symptoms](#),** the infectious period is two days before the specimen collection date until they meet criteria to discontinue [home isolation](#).

## RIDOH Resources

- [About COVID-19 Disease](#)
- [When do I need to isolation or quarantine for COVID-19?](#)
- [COVID-19 Quarantine and Isolation Guidance by Population](#)
- [COVID-19 Isolation and Quarantine Calculator](#)