

Healthcare Worker Exposed to a COVID-19 Patient

SITUATION: Exposure to a patient who is COVID-19 positive, exposed healthcare worker is asymptomatic

ACTION: Assess exposure risk (top table) and then take appropriate action (bottom table)

All team members/providers must take responsibility to not work while ill and to leave work immediately if symptoms develop. It is also critical for all team members/providers to Follow masking and eye protection per current Infection Prevention policy.

ASSESS EXPOSURE RISK (Continue to use Safety First Reporting in order to report any individual PPE breaches during patient care)

COVID positive patient	Patient and healthcare worker interaction (AGP = aerosol generating procedure)	HEALTHCARE WORKER'S PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)					
		No PPE	Procedural mask No eye protection No N95	Procedural mask Eye protection No N95 No gown and gloves	N95 No Eye protection, gown or gloves	Procedural mask Eye protection Gown and gloves No N95	N95 Eye protection Gown and gloves
Patient masked	Close contact*	High risk	Low risk	Low risk	Low risk	Low risk	Low risk
Patient not masked	Close contact* No AGP	High risk	High risk	High risk	High risk	High risk	Low risk
	AGP	High risk	High risk	High risk	High risk	High risk	Low risk

* **CLOSE CONTACT** = being within 6 feet of a COVID-19 positive person for > 15 minutes cumulative during a shift while caring for a COVID positive patient **OR** having unprotected direct contact with infectious secretions of a COVID-19 positive patient (i.e. being coughed on or touching used tissues with a bare hand)

TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION (NMHH, MGH, Blaze clinics and EMS all in critical staffing)

- During critical staffing: Follow grid below

Exposure category	Work restrictions* (high-risk environments)	Social Responsibility	COVID-19 monitoring
High	Asymptomatic worker can return to work on any unit	1. Individuals who are returning to work after a COVID illness must follow masking & distancing guidelines posted here COVID Safe Return to Work Guidelines (sharepoint.com) 2. Regardless of vaccination status or type of healthcare setting, testing is highly encouraged if you are unvaccinated or if vaccinated w/o a booster upon discovery of exposure (but not earlier than day 2) and again at 5-7 days after exposure (Based on MDH guidance)	1. Active Daily COVID timeout expectations. 2. If symptoms start while at work then immediately inform your manager and remove yourself from direct patient care when possible
Low	Asymptomatic worker can return to work on any unit		

***Fully vaccinated HCWs who remain asymptomatic do not need to quarantine after a high-risk exposure. A person is considered fully vaccinated once they are 2 weeks post completion of COVID vaccination 1 dose or 2 dose series**

Change Log:

- 11/17/20 Removed *High risk exposures in the NICU may work while asymptomatic but will need testing 5 days after exposure to rule out asymptomatic disease. Added Asymptomatic worker and return to work on any unit. If asymptomatic testing is encouraged at day 5-7. Updated 'social responsibility' and 'COVID-19 monitoring' section's verbiage.
- 12/15/20 Updated asymptomatic testing to occur at day 7-9
- 3/30/21 Added ***Fully vaccinated* HCWs who remain asymptomatic do not need to quarantine. * A person is considered fully vaccinated once they are 2 weeks post completion of COVID vaccination 1 dose or 2 dose series.***
- 6/1/21 Added additional instructions for testing upon discovery of exposure and again at 5-7 based on updated MDH guidance. Also updated to "Follow masking and eye protection per current Infection Prevention policy" due to updated guidance. Changed fourth risk column to say "N95 No Eye protection, gown or gloves"
- 8/9/21 Changed testing timeframe recommendation post-exposure from 5-7 days to 3-5 days per MDH guidance.
- 9/23/21 Changed testing timeframe recommendation post-exposure back to 5-7 days per MDH updated guidance. Also updated 'testing is highly encouraged upon discovery of exposure' to add 'but not earlier than day 2.
- 1/12/22 Updated 'worker restrictions' for 'high risk exposures' with clarification "if you are unvaccinated or if vaccinated w/o a booster." Bumped categories of 'patient not masked' with HCW protection of 'Procedural mask, eye protection, no N95, no gown and gloves' & 'Procedural mask, eye protection, gown and gloves" to 'high' risk. Moved testing recommendations to the 'social responsibility' section.
- 4/11/22 Added reference to the safe to return to work guidelines for masking instruction.