

UW Medicine Staff, Trainee and Faculty COVID-19 Exposure Protocol

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Purpose: Outline the steps to determine the extent and severity of a COVID-19 exposure involving staff, trainees and/or faculty members, including potential need for quarantine and testing.

Associated Policy:

EOC Policy #COVID19.70 Guidance for HCP Exposed to SARS-CoV-2

Definitions:

Employee- staff, trainee or faculty member

COVID-19 – the disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2

Exposure (minimum criteria)- being within 6 feet of another person with COVID-19 for greater than or equal to 15 minutes during the infectious window (2 days prior to symptom onset or positive test if asymptomatic, and for 10 days after onset or 72 hours after fever resolution/symptom improvement).

Protocol Steps:

Patient to Employee Exposure

1. A patient with COVID-19 is identified by routine monitoring and surveillance by entity Infection Prevention & Control (IPC)
2. The entity Employee Health (EH) and/or IPC teams evaluated the status of PPE use, duration of exposure, and proximity to the patient by the employees who provided care for the patient. It is assumed that patients identified at admission (for example, in the emergency department) are placed in appropriate precautions.
3. Any exposure reported to EH and/or IPC is investigated regardless of site or timing.
4. When any exposure that could have occurred outside of appropriate PPE is identified, EH and/or IPC team members performs a chart review to make a list of potentially exposed healthcare personnel and the unit leader is contacted. The unit leader and managers of other ancillary staff will assist EH/IPC with expanding the potential exposure list. The patient's care team will provide information as to the status of mask use by the patient.

- The EH/IPC team will then determine if the exposure is high-risk (red boxes), an unknown risk (yellow boxes) or not high-risk (green boxes) using the below Exposure Matrix.

Exposure Matrix

	Person with COVID-19 (symptomatic or asymptomatic)*		
	No mask	Wearing a mask or face cover	AGP**
HCP no mask	Red	Red	Red
HCP + mask only	Yellow	Green	Red
HCP + mask + eye protection	Green	Green	Red
HCP + respirator	Yellow	Green	Red
HCP + respirator + eye protection	Green	Green	Green

- For non-high-risk exposures, an SBAR is sent to unit and clinical leadership to disseminate to employees for their awareness. EH/IPC may determine, based on the specific scenario (including patient symptoms and duration of exposure), that a “yellow box” exposure will be either a high-risk exposure or a not high-risk exposure.
- For high-risk exposed individuals, EH/IPC teams will call each individual to confirm exposure and will recommend that the employee immediately leaves the workplace and quarantines for a total of 14 days from the day of the most recent exposure. The employee’s manager, unit leader or chief will be informed and is responsible for contact their Human Resources department representative.

Employee to Employee Exposure

- An employee with COVID-19 is identified by the Employee Testing Clinic or directly reported to EH or IPC (for example by the employee or public health).

2. EH and/or IPC teams call the employee to investigate if other employees experienced a high-risk exposure to the known COVID-19 positive employee during their infectious period. See Exposure Matrix above. EH/IPC may determine, based on the specific scenario (including patient symptoms and duration of exposure), that a “yellow box” exposure will be either a high-risk exposure or a not high-risk exposure.
3. For any high-risk exposed individuals, EH/IPC teams will call each individual and will recommend that the employee immediately leaves the workplace and quarantines for a total of 14 days from the day of the most recent exposure. The exposing employee’s information will not be included in this communication for confidentiality purposes. The employee’s manager, unit leader or chief will be informed and is responsible for contact their Human Resources department representative.

Employee Exposure in the Community

1. Per public health protocol. Employees who are exposed in the community can be risk assessed using the Exposure Matrix, but final determination by public health contact tracing team recommendations.

Testing

Per public health protocol, all individuals who have experienced a high-risk exposure should undergo testing for SARS-CoV-2 at 48 hours or greater after the exposure. This testing is used to inform if further contact tracing is needed.