



Risk Assessment of Healthcare Workers with Potential Workplace Exposure to Covid-19 Case V10



Casual Contacts

All Healthcare Workers (excluding Laboratory Workers)

Cumulative **Protected exposure** during one work shift for more than 15 minutes face-to-face (less than 1 meters distance) to a case

OR

Any **Protected Exposure** to the bodily fluids (mainly respiratory secretions e.g. coughing but also includes blood, stools, vomit, and urine) of the case

OR

Any **Protected Exposure** while present in the same room when an aerosol generating procedure (AGP)* is undertaken on the case

OR

A HCW who was not wearing gloves but was wearing other appropriate PPE*, performed hand hygiene immediately after hand skin contact with secretions / excretions of a case

OR

Cumulative **Unprotected Exposure** (i.e. any breach or omission of appropriate PPE*) for less than 15 minutes face-to-face (less than 1 meters distance) to a case

Any HCW who meets the above criteria, will be considered a Casual Contact for the duration of the care provided and for 14 days after.

A HCW wearing a surgical mask and following Standard Precautions in contact (less than 1 meter and greater than 15 minutes) with an **asymptomatic patient** who subsequently obtains a 'COVID-19 detected' result **on routine surveillance testing**, will be deemed a casual contact, **unless** following assessment factors are identified that determine the contact to be close. Should the patient subsequently develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19 the contact category will require reassessment.

Casual Contact require **Passive Monitoring**

- Asymptomatic Casual Contacts Can remain at Work
- Symptomatic Casual Contacts Must not remain at work
- Casual Contact specific advice provided
- Self-monitor for symptoms for 14 days after the last potential exposure
- Contact Occupational Health/Emergency Department if they develop relevant symptoms

Novel Coronavirus Case
Patient with a lab confirmed **infectious Novel Corona Virus** or where symptoms fit **criteria for testing** (confirmed by treating consultant or microbiology consultant)

Exposure Types

Protected Exposure =
Recommended infection control precautions followed, including the use of appropriate Personal Protective Equipment* (PPE) during the infectious period

Unprotected Exposure = any breach or omission of the appropriate PPE*

Relevant Symptoms

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Difficulty breathing
- Anosmia, ageusia or dysgeusia

***See AGP and PPE Guidance documents**

<https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/guidance/infectionpreventionandcontrolguidance/>

Important: Please consider clinical, ambulance and non-clinical staff when conducting your risk assessment.

Close Contacts

All Healthcare Workers excluding Laboratory Workers

Cumulative **Unprotected Exposure** during one work shift for more than 15 minutes face-to-face (< 1 meters distance) to a case

OR

Any Unprotected Exposure of their eyes or mouth or mucus membranes, to the bodily fluids (mainly respiratory secretions e.g. coughing, but also includes blood, stools, vomit, and urine) of the case

OR

Any **Unprotected Exposure** while present in the same room when an aerosol generating procedure* (AGP) is undertaken on the case.

Close Contact require **Active Monitoring**

- Must not remain at work
- Linked to Occupational Health
- Close Contact specific advice provided
- Contacted on a daily basis
- Self-monitor for symptoms for 14 days after the exposure incident
- Contact Occupational Health/Emergency Department if they develop relevant symptoms

Laboratory Workers Testing for COVID-19

Lab HCWs who have not fully adhered to good laboratory practice in one work shift for **less than 15 minutes**, while testing samples, are classified as **Casual Contacts**.

Laboratory HCWs who have not fully adhered to good laboratory practice for **15 minutes or more** in one work shift, while testing samples, are classified as **Close Contacts**.