



Risk Assessment of Healthcare Workers with Potential Workplace Exposure to Covid-19 Case V8.1



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
 OR
 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 the last contact.

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

Important

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

Novel Coronavirus Case

Patient with a **laboratory 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

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**.

*See AGP and PPE Guidance documents <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/guidance/infectionpreventionandcontrolguidance/>