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

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

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 the last contact.

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.

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 appropriate PPE*

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

Relevant Symptoms

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Difficulty breathing

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/