Risk Assessment of Healthcare Workers with Potential Workplace Exposure to Covid-19 Case V11

**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 meter distance) to a case
  - Any **Protected Exposure** to the bodily fluids (mainly respiratory secretions e.g. coughing but also includes blood, stools, vomit, and urine) of the case
  - 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 meter 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** requires no follow-up monitoring or testing

**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)

**Close Contacts**

- All Healthcare Workers excluding Laboratory Workers

  - Cumulative **Unprotected Exposure** during one work shift for more than 15 minutes face-to-face (< 1 meter distance) to a case
  - 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
  - Any **Unprotected Exposure** while present in the same room when an aerosol generating procedure (AGP) is undertaken on the case.

  **Close Contact Management** – See **Interim Guidance for Healthcare Worker (HCW) Close Contact Management**

**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

**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/

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