



# 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 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.**

**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

## 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 Management – See [Interim Guidance for Healthcare Worker \(HCW\) Close Contact Management](#)**

### 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**.

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

\*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.**