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

**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.

**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

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**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 the 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

**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**.

Lab 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**.

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Important

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

Relevant Symptoms

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Difficulty breathing

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