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
- Any **Protected Exposure** to the bodily fluids (mainly respiratory secretions e.g. coughing but also includes blood, stools, vomit, and urine) of the case
- Any **Protected Exposure** while present in the same room when an aerosol generating procedure (AGP)* is undertaken on 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 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.

- 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** 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

- **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*

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
- 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** 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**.

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

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