

Shodair Children’s Hospital Close Contact Process of Procedure

An **exposure** is considered when an individual is within 6 feet of a COVID-19-positive individual for a cumulative 15 minutes over a 24-hour period.

Cumulative is defined as a **TOTAL** of 15 minutes. For example, if the exposed person is within 6 feet of a COVID-19 positive person 3 different times for 5 minutes each time in one 24-hour period, this is considered an exposure.

Individuals that were with a COVID-19 positive individual up to 48 hours prior to the COVID-19 positive individual having a positive test or having symptoms of COVID-19 must be considered for exposure.

Of note, If the exposed person and COVID-19-positive person are both healthcare personnel and are both wearing a medical mask (not cloth masks), this is not considered an exposure.

Per the DPHHS (Rachel Hinnenkamp) and the Lewis and Clark County Health Department (Karen Wandel, RN), the CDC defines Healthcare Personnel (HCP) as:

“HCP refers to all paid and unpaid persons serving in healthcare settings who have the potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials, including body substances (e.g., blood, tissue, and specific body fluids); contaminated medical supplies, devices, and equipment; contaminated environmental surfaces; or contaminated air. HCP include, but are not limited to, emergency medical service personnel, nurses, nursing assistants, home healthcare personnel, physicians, technicians, therapists, phlebotomists, pharmacists, dental healthcare personnel, students and trainees, contractual staff not employed by the healthcare facility, and persons not directly involved in patient care, but who could be exposed to infectious agents that can be transmitted in the healthcare setting (**e.g., clerical, dietary, environmental services, laundry, security, engineering and facilities management, administrative, billing, and volunteer personnel**). For this guidance, HCP does not include clinical laboratory personnel”.

In the event of a known exposure for healthcare personnel who have been exposed to SARS-CoV-2 [the virus that causes COVID-19] who are asymptomatic. Follow the current operating standard of facility.

Vaccination Status: Boosted

Conventional Standard:

- No work restrictions, with negative test on day 2 and day 5-7.

Contingency Standard, strategy to mitigate healthcare personnel staffing shortage.

- No work restrictions. Test if possible and according to symptoms.

Crisis Standard

- No work restrictions. Test if possible and according to symptoms.

Vaccination Status: Vaccinated or unvaccinated, even if within 90 days prior to infection.

Conventional Standard:

- 10 days OR 7 days with a negative antigen test.

Contingency Standard, strategy to mitigate healthcare personnel staffing shortage.

- No work restrictions with negative tests on days, 1, 2, 3, 5-&7.

Crisis Standard

- No work restrictions (test if possible).

Examples of exposure scenarios:

- 1) Nurse Katie is wearing a medical mask and is caring for patient Lisa. She spends more than 15 minutes within 6 feet of the patient in a 12-hour shift. Lisa tests positive for COVID-19 2 days later. Nurse Katie is considered an exposed contact. Of note, it does not matter if patient Lisa was wearing a medical mask.
- 2) Nurse Katie is wearing a medical mask and is in the nurse's station with nurse Elize who is wearing a medical mask. They spend more than 15 minutes within 6 feet of each other in a 12-hour shift. Elize tests positive for COVID-19 the next day. Katie is not considered an exposure because they are both healthcare personnel and are wearing medical masks.
- 3) Nurse Katie is wearing a medical mask and is caring for patient Lisa. Katie spends more than 15 minutes within 6 feet of the patient in a 12-hour shift. Katie tests positive for COVID-19 2 days later. Patient Lisa is considered an exposed contact regardless of vaccine status. All the patients on that unit will need to test immediately and quarantine for 10 days