



# **IDHS RESOURCE ON EXPOSURE TO CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 FOR EMERGENCY RESPONDERS**

March 20, 2020

# EMS RESOURCE FOR COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS



- This resource addresses the two common questions:
  - What constitutes an EMS provider exposure?
  - What is the appropriate reaction?
- The guidelines are taken directly from current CDC guidance and recommendations.
- If an individual provider has questions or concerns on a specific case, please contact your local health department and consult with your individual EMS medical director.

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- For the purposes of this guidance, HCP provider is interpreted to be the same as EMS provider.
- HCP with no direct patient contact and no entry into active patient management areas who adhere to routine safety precautions do not have a risk of exposure to COVID-19 (i.e., they have *no identifiable risk.*)

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## Low Risk Exposure

Brief interactions with COVID-19 patients

Prolonged close contact with COVID-19 patients wearing a face mask and the HCP wearing a face mask. Use of a respirator for treatment of COVID-19 patients

## Medium Risk Exposure

Prolonged close contact with face-masked COVID-19 patients where HCP mouth and nose were exposed to potentially infectious material

Treatments with aerosol-generating procedures on a COVID-19 patient where gloves, gown, and face mask were used but no respirator

## High Risk Exposure

HCP with prolonged close contact with COVID-19 patient without a face mask

Treatments with aerosol-generating procedures on a COVID-19 patient where HCP eyes, nose or mouth were not protected

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## Prolonged close contact with a COVID-19 patient who was wearing a facemask (i.e., source control)

Epidemiologic risk factors	Exposure category	Recommended Monitoring for COVID-19 ( <i>until 14 days after last potential exposure</i> )	Work Restrictions for Asymptomatic HCP
HCP PPE: None	Medium	Active	Exclude from work for 14 days after last exposure
HCP PPE: Not wearing a facemask or respirator	Medium	Active	Exclude from work for 14 days after last exposure
HCP PPE: Not wearing eye protection	Low	Self with delegated supervision	None
HCP PPE: Not wearing gown or gloves	Low	Self with delegated supervision	None
HCP PPE: Wearing all recommended PPE (except wearing a facemask instead of a respirator)	Low	Self with delegated supervision	None

# EMS RESOURCE FOR COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS



## Prolonged close contact with a COVID-19 patient who was not wearing a facemask (i.e., no source control)

Epidemiologic risk factors	Exposure category	Recommended Monitoring for COVID-19 ( <i>until 14 days after last potential exposure</i> )	Work Restrictions for Asymptomatic HCP
HCP PPE: None	High	Active	Exclude from work for 14 days after last exposure
HCP PPE: Not wearing a facemask or respirator	High	Active	Exclude from work for 14 days after last exposure
HCP PPE: Not wearing eye protection	Medium	Active	Exclude from work for 14 days after last exposure
HCP PPE: Not wearing gown or gloves	Low	Self with delegated supervision	None
HCP PPE: Wearing all recommended PPE (except wearing a facemask instead of a respirator)	Low	Self with delegated supervision	None

# SUMMARY



- **Proper adherence to currently recommended infection control practices, including all recommended PPE, should protect HCP having prolonged close contact with patients infected with COVID-19.** However, to account for any inconsistencies in use or adherence that could result in unrecognized exposures HCP should still perform self-monitoring with delegated supervision.
- **HCP with no direct patient contact and no entry into active patient management areas who adhere to routine safety precautions do not have a risk of exposure to COVID-19 (i.e., they have no identifiable risk.)**
- [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assessment-hcp.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assessment-hcp.html)

# SUMMARY



- EMS personnel who have been exposed to a patient with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 should notify their chain of command to ensure appropriate follow-up.
- **EMS providers who are exposed to potential COVID patients with recommended PPE in place do not need quarantine. They will continue to work unless they develop symptoms (fever/cough/SOB) at which time they will abstain from duty and seek medical evaluation.**



# SUMMARY



- **Consider allowing asymptomatic HCP who have had an exposure to a COVID-19 patient to continue to work after options to improve staffing have been exhausted and in consultation with their occupational health program.** These HCP should still report temperature and absence of symptoms each day prior to starting work.
- **HCP should wear a facemask while at work for the 14 days after the exposure event if there is a sufficient supply of facemasks.** If HCP develop even mild symptoms consistent with COVID-19, they must cease patient care activities, don a facemask (if not already wearing), and notify their supervisor or occupational health services prior to leaving work.



# THIS RESOURCE IS BEING OFFERED FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR EMERGENCY RESPONDERS

Please continue to monitor ISDH and CDC for additional and changing guidance:

- ISDH: <https://www.in.gov/isdh/28470.htm>
- CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-for-ems.html>