

## Management of Asymptomatic Healthcare Personnel with Confirmed Exposure to COVID-19 CONVENTIONAL CRITERIA

On December 23, 2021, the CDC announced updated guidance for asymptomatic healthcare personnel (HCP)\* with exposure to a person with confirmed Coronavirus Disease-2019 (COVID-19). The CDC guidance outlines practices for **conventional**, **contingency** and **crisis** standards in order to reflect updated science as well as maintain appropriate staffing levels and provide safe patient care and work environment for all HCP. Exposure guidelines will be monitored and updated as the situation changes and additional information becomes available.

The following exposure guidance is for the **CONVENTIONAL** category only and applies to all asymptomatic HCP\* with confirmed exposure to a person with confirmed COVID-19. This policy applies to all BILH-affiliated HCP, regardless of location or level of patient contact, and will be updated as new information becomes available. All HCP are expected to comply with local or state quarantine recommendations, if applicable\*. Clearance is required through local Employee Health.

**Table 1. Conventional Criteria for management of asymptomatic healthcare personnel with exposure to a person with confirmed COVID-19.**

Exposure Scenario <sup>1</sup>	Work status	
	<a href="#">Up to Date with COVID-19 vaccines, or within 90 days of COVID-19 infection</a> <sup>4,5</sup>	Not <a href="#">up to date with COVID-19 vaccines</a> <sup>3</sup>
<b>Higher risk exposure, work</b> <sup>2</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Clear to remain at work.</b></li> <li>• COVID-19 test (PCR or antigen test<sup>6</sup>) 24 hours after last exposure.</li> <li>• If negative, clear to remain at work.</li> <li>• A second test (PCR) is required 5-7 days later, with work removal if positive.</li> <li>• Additional testing may be indicated for more prolonged or multiple exposures.</li> <li>• Immediate removal from work if symptomatic.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Exclude from work.</b></li> <li>• HCP can return to work after day 7 following the exposure (day 0) if a viral test (PCR or antigen<sup>6</sup>) is negative and HCP does not develop symptoms.</li> <li>• The specimen should be collected and tested within 48 hours before the time of planned return to work.</li> <li>• If no testing performed, must remain out of work for 10 days.</li> <li>• Immediate removal from work if symptomatic.</li> </ul>
<b>Higher risk exposure, household</b> <sup>3</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Exclude from work.</b> May return to work once HCP tests negative (PCR or antigen test<sup>6</sup>).</li> <li>• A second test (PCR) is required 5-7 days later.</li> <li>• Additional testing may be indicated for more prolonged or multiple exposures.</li> <li>• Immediate removal from work if symptomatic.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Exclude from work.</b><sup>3</sup></li> <li>• HCP can return to work after day 7 following the last day of exposure (day 0) if a viral test (PCR or antigen<sup>6</sup>) is negative and HCP does not develop symptoms.</li> <li>• The specimen should be collected and tested within 48 hours before the time of planned return to work.</li> <li>• If no testing performed, must remain out of work for 10 days following last day of exposure.</li> <li>• Immediate removal from work if symptomatic.</li> </ul>
<b>All other exposures</b>	<p><b>Clear to remain at work.</b> PCR testing required 3-5 days after exposure. Clear to work with mask while awaiting PCR test result. If negative, clear to continue working.<sup>3</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immediate removal from work if symptomatic.</li> </ul>	

1. Infection Control definition of exposure: a) being in close contact (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes over a 24-hour period) of a person with confirmed COVID-19 without recommended personal protective equipment (PPE) within the 48 hours before diagnosis (symptom onset or positive test, if asymptomatic); or b) having direct contact of any duration with infectious secretions of a COVID-19 case while not wearing recommended PPE, such as a direct cough in the face without a mask or eye protection, or performing high risk procedures without [all essential PPE components](#).
2. Higher risk exposures, **work**: performing high risk procedure on a person with COVID-19 without the use of both a respirator and eye protection; or having direct contact of any duration with infectious secretions of a COVID-19 case while not wearing a eye protection plus a mask or respirator.
3. Higher risk exposure, **household**: Exposure is considered ongoing if HCP cannot isolate from positive household member. In these cases, the last day of exposure is considered the last day of isolation for the positive household member.
4. [Up to date](#) means a person has received all recommended doses in their primary series COVID-19 vaccine, and a booster dose when eligible.
5. HCPs with confirmed COVID diagnosis within the past 90 days, without new onset of symptoms, will not be tested. Confirmed COVID is defined as a positive PCR, other nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT), or antigen test for SARS-CoV-2.
6. BILH-approved antigen tests include:
  - Abbott BinaxNOW COVID-19 Antigen Self Test
  - ACON/Flowflex COVID-19 Antigen Home Test
  - Quidel QuickVue At-Home OTC COVID-19 Test
  - BD Veritor At-Home COVID-19 Test
  - Intrivo Diagnostics On/Go 10-minute COVID-19 Antigen Self-Test

- iHealth COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Test
- Ellume COVID 19 Home Test Kit
- Orasure InteliSwab COVID-19 Rapid Test Rx
- Access Bio CareStart COVID-19 Antigen Home Test

**After returning to work:**

After returning to work, **ALL** asymptomatic HCP with exposure to a person with confirmed COVID-19 (regardless of vaccination status) should:

- Wear a surgical mask at all times while in the facility for a full 10 days after the last exposure event, unless eating or replaced by a respirator. When eating, be sure to sit **at least 6 feet** from other staff and consider staggering breaks as much as possible to avoid exposure. ***This masking requirement applies to areas in which other HCP are not required to mask.***
- Self-monitor for symptoms daily and continue to complete the required daily symptom reporting.
- If symptoms develop, HCP must cease work immediately and contact Employee Health to arrange for prompt testing for COVID-19.

\**HCP*: Includes all BILH employees, employed and affiliated physicians, students, volunteers, and anyone entering to work/observe in the hospital/business unit