

Onsite Dental and Affiliated PC's COVID-19 Exposure Protocol

Objective

The following Covid-19 Exposure Protocol outlines the steps to be taken should a team member become symptomatic or believe they have been exposed to a COVID-19 positive individual either at work or outside of work and is intended to assist with assessment of risk and application of work restrictions for asymptomatic and symptomatic healthcare personnel (HCP) with potential exposure to others. This protocol is based on the CDC's Interim Guidance found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assesment-hcp.html>

Team members should also refer to their local and state health departments to ensure appropriate local protocols and guidelines are followed. As per the CDC, this guidance is based on currently available data about COVID-19. Recommendations regarding which Health Care Providers (HCP) are restricted from work might not anticipate every potential scenario, every case will be assessed on a case by case basis and will also be based on the specific exposure and the Client's established safety rules and protocols.

What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is a newly identified coronavirus, also known as SARS-CoV-2, which has caused a worldwide pandemic of respiratory illness.

How does COVID-19?

COVID-19 is mainly spread through droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or speaks. The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person, including:

- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or speaks.

Per the CDC, some spread might be possible before people show symptoms, i.e. pre-symptomatic individuals; however, asymptomatic transmission is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads. Recent data suggest that asymptomatic persons may have a lower viral burden at diagnosis than symptomatic persons.

Symptoms of COVID-19

It is of utmost importance that team members are able to adequately recognize the symptoms of COVID-19. Onsite Dental and its Affiliated PC's will provide instructions on what to do if team members develop symptoms of COVID-19 or are exposed to an individual showing COVID-19 symptoms.

At a minimum, any staff member should immediately notify their supervisor and the Chief Dental Officer/HR if they develop symptoms of COVID-19 or have experienced an exposure to anyone showing COVID-19 symptoms within two days of development of symptoms.

The Chief Dental Officer and Safety Committee will instruct the affected team member how to proceed going forward and if deemed appropriate, will reach out to the state and/or county health department and ask for guidance on what additional actions, if any, need to be taken. Additionally, the staff member will be required to follow established safety guidelines and rules of the Client housing the dental clinic they work in.

Please note, if the guidelines provided by the health department and the Client's guidelines do not align, Onsite Dental and its Affiliated PC's will follow the more conservative guidelines so as to best protect the health and safety of patients, team members and the community in general.

Symptoms of Covid-19 typically include fever, or feeling feverish, dry cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing. Some people infected with the virus have reported experiencing other non-respiratory symptoms which could include:

- Chills with or without repeated shaking
- Muscle pain or body aches
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- GI symptoms including nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea
- New loss of taste or smell
- Rash (including intra-oral and/or around the toes)

Symptoms of COVID-19 may appear in as few as 2 days or as long as 14 days after exposure. It is also possible to have COVID-19 and experience no symptoms. Persons who present this are referred to as asymptomatic carriers. Asymptomatic carriers are thought to not be as contagious as symptomatic carriers, however, they are still able to infect others if proper precautions are not taken such as social distancing and wearing face masks/coverings.

What is considered an Exposure?

A high risk exposure is considered when an HCP has had a prolonged, close exposure to someone who is COVID-19 positive or highly suspected to be COVID-19 positive. A prolonged exposure time is considered fifteen (15) minutes or longer. The risk of exposure rises with symptomatology. Please note, any duration of exposure should be considered prolonged if the exposure occurred during performance an aerosol-generating procedure.

Close contact is defined as: a) being within 6 feet of a person with confirmed COVID-19 without appropriate PPE or b) having unprotected direct contact with infectious secretions or excretions of the person with confirmed or highly suspected COVID-19 positive status.

The specific factors associated with these exposures will be evaluated on a case by case basis; interventions, including restriction from work, can be applied if the risk for transmission is deemed substantial. This will be determined by the Chief Dental Officer/HR and the Safety Committee, in conjunction with other team members as deemed appropriate.

Per the CDC, this guidance applies to HCP with potential exposure in a healthcare setting to patients, visitors, or other HCP with confirmed COVID-19. Exposures can also occur from a suspected case of COVID-19 or from a person under investigation (PUI) when testing has not yet occurred or if results are pending. Work restrictions described in this guidance might be applied to HCP exposed to a PUI if test results for the PUI are not expected to return within 48 to 72 hours.

An HCP will be considered exposed if they have had prolonged, close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual without the use of PPE (which includes appropriate mask, face shield, gown, gloves and eye protection,

depending on the interaction).

Please note, for individuals with confirmed COVID-19 who later developed symptoms, the exposure window will be considered to be 2 days before symptom onset. For individuals with confirmed COVID-19 who never developed symptoms, determining the infectious period can be challenging. In these situations, collecting information about when the asymptomatic individual with COVID-19 may have been exposed could help inform the period when they were infectious.

Per the CDC, COVID-19 should be considered potentially infectious beginning 2 days after their exposure. If the date of exposure cannot be determined, although the infectious period could be longer, it is reasonable to use a starting point of 2 days prior to the positive test.

Testing for COVID-19

You will be required to seek medical clearance and asked to test for COVID-19 once or more should it be determined that you may have been exposed at or outside of work or have symptoms associated with COVID-19.

Currently, COVID-19 diagnostic tests are covered by insurance, although many are requiring a doctor's prescription in order to cover the test. If you do not have insurance, Onsite Dental and its Affiliated PC's will cover the cost of COVID-19 diagnostic testing however, **antibody testing will not be covered as it is not considered an accurate test at this time and not recommended by the CDC.**

If more than one test is to be taken, a minimum of 24 hours shall pass between the first and second test.

Additionally, employee will be asked to self-quarantine for 14 days or, depending on the level of exposure, until test results are available. During this time, employees are to report any symptoms they develop to the Chief Dental Officer and HR. Please note that anything reported is HIPAA protected.

How to get Tested

COVID-19 testing differs by location. If you have symptoms of COVID-19 and want to get tested or are directed to take a COVID-19 test, call your medical provider first. You can also visit your state or local health department's website to look for the latest local information on testing. While supplies of these tests are increasing, it may still be difficult to find a place to get tested. Drive through tests may be found through CVS, Walgreens, Walmart and many urgent cares, hospitals and medical chains.

Once you have scheduled your test, you will be required to report testing date and time as well as when results are expected. You will may also be required to obtain a medical clearance before returning to work and will be asked your COVID-19 status.

Pay

There are several federal and state programs that may aide employees that have been exposed to COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. Sick time and sick leave requirements also vary by state. These programs typically require that a medical doctor restrict work. There are other eligibility criteria that must also be met in order to qualify for these programs. These vary by state and will be discussed on an individual basis. You may also be eligible to work remotely during this time.

Return to Work

If employee has been deemed to not have had an exposure, or have had a very low risk exposure, they could be asked to go back to work, continue social distancing and following established protocols such as 100% mask wear in the office along with Standard Precautions. Employee and the rest of the team may be asked to self quarantine for 14 days, or self-monitor for symptoms and increase team screenings to twice a day; 1) Before start of shift and 2) before returning from lunch.

If employee is returning to work after being cleared by a physician, employee will provide a doctor's note stating if there are any on-going work restrictions going forward.

Please refer to excerpt below from the CDC: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/return-to-work.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fhealthcare-facilities%2Fhcp-return-work.html

Return to Work Criteria for HCP with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19

Please note, the protocol adopted by Onsite Dental and Affiliated PC's exceeds current CDC guidelines. The safety of our team members, staff and our communities is our highest priority.

Symptom-based strategy. Exclude from work until:

- At least 14 days have passed since symptoms first appeared **and**
- At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since last fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and**
- Symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) have improved

Please note, Onsite and Affiliated PC's reserve the right to ask for an additional clearance for individuals and restrict work, when deemed appropriate, for individuals that are still experiencing symptoms after 14 days of symptom onset.

Test-based strategy. Exclude from work until:

- Resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications (for a minimum of 72 hours) **and**
- Improvement in respiratory symptoms, e.g., cough, shortness of breath, (for a minimum of 7 days), **and**
- Negative results of an FDA Emergency Use Authorized COVID-19 molecular assay for detection of SARS-CoV-2 RNA from at least two consecutive respiratory specimens collected ≥ 24 hours apart (total of two negative specimens)[1]. See [Interim Guidelines for Collecting, Handling, and Testing Clinical Specimens for 2019 Novel Coronavirus \(2019-nCoV\)](#). Of note, there have been reports of prolonged detection of RNA without direct correlation to viral culture.