



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Update March 18, 2020

MSDH Guidance for Healthcare Facilities for the Assessment of Healthcare Personnel with Potential Exposures to COVID-19

The Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) recommends that healthcare facilities refer to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance for evaluating Healthcare Personnel with Potential Exposures to COVID-19, available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assesment-hcp.html>.

Hospitals and healthcare facilities should identify those healthcare workers who may have had exposures to the case(s) of COVID-19 identified in your facility and use this guidance to stratify the risk of exposure based on:

- The presence/absence of source control measures (patient masked).
- The use of personal protective equipment (PPE) by the provider.
- The degree of contact with the patient.

The guidance defines recommended monitoring and/or work restrictions for the healthcare worker based on their determined exposure risk (high, medium, low). According to the CDC guidance, individuals who are determined to be high or medium risk should be excluded from work, self-quarantined and monitored for symptoms by the facility for 14 days after last exposure. Low risk contacts can continue to work without restrictions but should be instructed to self-monitor.

With consideration to potential resource constraints within healthcare facilities and settings, the CDC guidance also indicates that facilities may consider allowing asymptomatic healthcare workers with high and medium risk exposures to continue to work after options to improve staffing have been exhausted and in consultation with their occupational health program. Asymptomatic healthcare workers at high or medium risk who are allowed to continue to work should follow these recommendations, per CDC guidelines, for 14 days after the last known exposure:

- 1) Maintain twice daily fever and symptom log (cough, dyspnea) at home and while at work. Fever and symptoms must be checked and reported each day prior to the start of shift.
- 2) Wear a surgical mask during work and adhere to strict hand hygiene.
- 3) Report the onset of fever or respiratory symptoms to supervisor immediately. If these occur the employee must put on a mask immediately (if not already wearing), self-isolate, leave work and undergo clinical assessment.

Paul Byers, MD
State Epidemiologist

570 East Woodrow Wilson • Post Office Box 1700 • Jackson, MS 39215-1700
601-576-8090 • 1-866-HLTHY4U • www.HealthyMS.com

Equal Opportunity in Employment/Services