

# YOU ARE A CLOSE CONTACT TO A COVID-19 CASE, NOW WHAT?

This guidance is for people who were identified by the ND Department of Health (NDDoH) as a **Close Contact** to COVID-19. This is defined as someone within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more while the case is deemed to be infectious (48 hours prior to their onset of symptoms; for asymptomatic cases, 48 hours prior to the date they were tested.)

## Signs and symptoms of COVID-19

The most common symptoms of novel coronavirus are fever and cough, difficulty breathing, loss of taste/smell, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills, diarrhea, and nausea/vomiting. These symptoms can also be due to many other illnesses. If you develop a fever or any symptoms, it doesn't mean you have COVID-19, but you should immediately contact your health care provider for COVID-19 testing.

## Monitoring Period

**Remain at home or in a comparable setting for the next two weeks. Avoid congregate settings, public activities, and practice social distancing.** This means you should remain out of public places where close contact with others may occur (e.g., shopping centers, movie theaters, stadiums), workplaces, schools and other classroom settings, and public conveyances (e.g., bus, subway, taxi, side share) for the duration of your monitoring period unless approved by the state or local health department. Close contacts will still need to be quarantined for 14 days from their last exposure, unless both the infected person and close contact were wearing a mask at all times during the exposure; this would exempt the contact from being quarantined.

You should monitor health daily for up to 14 days because you were determined by the NDDoH to have been exposed to COVID-19. This does **NOT** mean that you will get sick with COVID-19.

You are recommended to monitor yourself for symptoms for **14 days** following your last potential exposure to a person with COVID-19. Household contacts to a confirmed COVID-19 case will need to monitor themselves while they remain in the household and for a period of time following the COVID-19 case's recovery. This will be determined on a case-by-case basis with public health. In limited circumstances, public health may approve household contacts to begin their quarantine immediately.

If you become sick and are tested for COVID-19 during this period and are found to be **Positive**. The NDDoH will work with you on continuing your monitoring as a confirmed case of COVID-19. Even if you do not develop symptoms, you should get tested because you are a close contact to a COVID-19 case. Ideally, this should occur 7-10 days after last known exposure. If you are found to be **Negative**, you will still need to fulfill your recommended quarantine period, as it can take up to 14 days to develop COVID-19.

For individuals who are exempted from home quarantine due to mask use during their exposure, the recommendations for symptom monitoring and testing are the same as a person who is in traditional quarantine. It is also recommended that judicious mask use be utilized while in public as masks will reduce the risk of pre-symptomatic and/or asymptomatic transmission to others.

As a close contact, other individuals in your household do not have to quarantine unless they have been notified that they are also a close contact.

## Check your temperature and symptoms

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It is very important for you to monitor your health daily so that you can be taken care of and treated quickly if you get sick. Based on what is known from other coronavirus infections, 14 days is the longest time between when you were last exposed to COVID-19 and when symptoms begin.

- Take your temperature (use as directed in the thermometer instructions) **2 times a day:**
  - ***once in the morning and again in the evening*** (if you forget, take your temperature as soon as you remember)
- You should also check your temperature anytime you feel like you have a fever or feel feverish.
- Write down your temperature twice a day, every day along with any of the symptoms listed below.

If you have fever (100.4°F or higher), cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms such as loss of taste/smell, chills, sore throat, body aches, headache, diarrhea, or nausea/vomiting, you should be tested for COVID-19.

## What should I do if I become ill during this monitoring period?

**Unless it is an emergency, DO NOT GO to a clinic or hospital without first calling ahead.** Calling first will help the clinic or hospital prepare to greet you and take care of you in the safest possible way. If you must go to the hospital before calling, notify staff immediately that you are being monitored for COVID-19. If you become ill and test negative at any time during your monitoring period, you still need to remain in quarantine for 14 days.

## Household Contacts to a Confirmed COVID-19 Case

You may remain in your usual home setting while monitoring yourself for COVID-19. If possible, avoid sharing a bathroom with other members of the household. Also be sure not to share drinks or utensils. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.