

Healthcare Exposures and Reporting Requirements for COVID-19

This guidance is for healthcare facilities on identifying and reporting exposures that occurred within the facility as a result of COVID-19 infected **healthcare personnel (HCP)** and **patients/residents**.

As part of your infection control program, each encounter with a positive Covid-19 case should be assessed for exposures.

Facilities should follow the CDC's [infection prevention and control recommendations for COVID-19 in healthcare settings](#). These recommendations provide detailed [guidance for care of patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19](#) in healthcare settings and [considerations for care of patients not suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19](#).

Exposures and Reporting

Healthcare facilities are responsible for identifying HCP and patients/residents who were exposed to individuals with confirmed COVID-19 within their facility/clinic/medical setting. This includes HCP exposed to inpatients and outpatients, including while collecting specimens, and other coworker HCP found to be confirmed COVID-19 cases.

- Use CDC's [Interim Guidance for Risk Assessment for HCP with Potential Exposure to COVID-19](#) to identify HCP with higher-risk exposures.
- Identify others (i.e., [visitors](#), [patients](#), coworkers) who were exposed.
- Report identified HCP and others as close contacts to the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) within **48 hours** of identification to dohcovidhai@nd.gov or your regional COVID-19 case manager.
- Identified close contacts will be followed-up and monitored by the NDDoH.
- Follow NDDoH [Return to Work Guidance](#) for HCP.
- Patient and resident COVID-19 deaths must be reported within **24 hours** of death to dohcovidhai@nd.gov or your regional COVID-19 case manager or field epidemiologist.

Healthcare Personnel (HCP): HCP include, but are not limited to, emergency medical service personnel, nurses, nursing assistants, physicians, technicians, therapists, phlebotomists, pharmacists, students and trainees, contractual staff not employed by the healthcare facility, and persons not directly involved in patient care, but who could be exposed to infectious agents that can be transmitted in the healthcare setting (e.g., clerical, dietary, environmental services, laundry, security, engineering and facilities management, administrative, billing, volunteer personnel).

Higher-Risk Exposures: Prolonged exposure (accumulated time period of ≥ 15 minutes) to patients with COVID-19 when HCP's eyes, nose, or mouth are not covered. Other exposures not included as higher risk, including having body contact with the patient (e.g., rolling the patient) without gown or gloves, may impart some risk for transmission, particularly if hand hygiene is not performed and HCP then touch their eyes, nose, or mouth. The specific factors associated with these exposures should be evaluated on a case by case basis.

North Dakota Administrative Code 33-06-01 requires reporting of COVID-19 cases (SARI) to the NDDoH, Division of Disease Control. This includes cases in settings such as long-term care, group homes, swing beds, and other congregate living settings. There are many state agencies working on COVID-19 response but reporting of communicable diseases and conditions should be made only to the NDDoH as required.

The following information should be emailed to either disease@nd.gov or dohcovidhai@nd.gov, or faxed to 701-328-0355.

- If you have questions about someone meeting close contact exposure criteria, contact dohcovidhai@nd.gov or your regional COVID-19 case manager or field epidemiologist.

COVID-19 infectious period for COVID-19 cases starts 48 hours prior to onset of symptoms or a positive test if asymptomatic.

Include the following information in your report to the NDDoH:

Name of facility/medical setting	
Name and date of birth of positive case	
Date tested	
Symptom onset if known	
Close contacts identified full name and phone number	
If close contacts are patients, please indicate that you have notified them	
Name of person reporting and phone number	
Notes:	