

EMPLOYERS: Understanding COVID-19 Transmission and Close Contacts



One of your employees was diagnosed as a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case. **What should you do?**

Confirmed or Probable COVID-19 Case



1. Contact the Local Health Department based on the employee's residence and, additionally, based on the location of any exposed workplace facilities
- Sometimes there are delays in lab results or surveillance

Identify close contacts

- Look at operations flow and determine close contacts of the confirmed or probable case.**
 - A close contact is considered someone closer than 6 feet together for 15 or more minutes within 48 hours PRIOR to positive case's symptom onset or a positive test result.



What should close contacts do?

- Close contacts should quarantine for 14 days and monitor symptoms daily.**
 - Some individuals may want to get tested right away for various reasons. Public Health recommends to wait until the viral load increases, which is estimated to be 5 days post exposure.
 - If symptoms develop, they should get tested immediately.
- Close contacts can return to work once quarantine period is complete.**



For more information, please contact your Local Public Health Department:

<https://www.malph.org/resources/directory>

Frequently Asked Questions

I was around a close contact of a confirmed case. Should I get tested right now?

If you pick up a virus, such as COVID-19, it takes about 3-5 days for the viral load to be high enough to be positive on a diagnostic test. In this case, only test if you develop symptoms.

Contacts of a close contact: Individuals who have been around identified close contacts of a confirmed/probable case prior to the close contact being quarantined.



What to do

- Go about life as usual
 - Practice mindful distancing from others
 - Wear a face mask
 - Clean and disinfect highly touched surfaces
 - Practice frequent handwashing
- Self-check for symptoms



When your situation would change

- If the close contact tests positive and you've had close contact within 48 hours (2 days) PRIOR to their positive test, you should quarantine
- If the close contact begins to develop symptoms and you've had close contact with the individual within the last 48 hours, you should quarantine.

When is the right time to get tested?

COVID-19 is a novel virus. We are still learning many issues around this virus. As Michigan has expanded testing capacity, anyone can get tested for coronavirus. However, if you are concerned about a potential risk of exposure, it's important to test at the right time to properly connect you to the epidemiological links of the virus. It takes about 3-5 days on average for the viral load in the body to be high enough to show a positive result on a diagnostic test. If you are going out in to public, it is important to monitor your symptoms daily.

What's the proper personal protective equipment (PPE)?

Refer to your Employer's COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan for the PPE to be worn at work. The more often you practice COVID-19 mitigation strategies (handwashing, social distancing, wearing face coverings) the risk of COVID-19 transmission goes down.