

# Coronavirus (COVID-19) Exposure

- **Exposure (Close Contact)** to a person with confirmed or suspected COVID-19.
- Exposure includes travel from other areas where there is major community spread.
- If an exposed person **has no symptoms** of COVID-19, they need quarantine and monitoring at home to see if they develop any symptoms.
- If an **exposed person gets symptoms** of COVID-19, they may need to be seen for testing. Reason: flu and other viruses can cause similar symptoms. Testing is the only way to tell what you have. Your doctor will decide if testing would be helpful.
- **Confirmed patients** have a positive COVID-19 lab test.
- **Suspected patients** are those whom a doctor suspects of having COVID-19, based on symptoms and exposure (CDC definition).
- Updated Guide version: 4/9/2020
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Exposure definitions:

## EXPOSURE TO COVID-19: DEFINITION PER CDC

### 1. **Criteria for COVID-19 Exposure: Close Contact**

- The risk for getting COVID-19 requires one of the following:
- **Close contact with a person who tested positive for COVID-19 AND contact occurred while they were ill.**
- Close contact with a person who is under investigation for COVID-19 AND contact occurred while they were ill.
- You will not need COVID-19 testing unless you develop a fever or cough.

### 2. **Travel from or Living in High-Risk Area (Hot Spot)** - as identified by CDC or your state health department

- Living in or traveling from a city, country or other geographic area where there is documented community spread of COVID-19. This carries a lower risk compared to close contact.
- However, it does increase the risk of having close contact with a COVID-19 sick patient without knowing it.
- You will not need COVID-19 testing unless you develop a fever or cough.

### 3. **Exposure to COVID-19: Levels of Risk**

- **Household Close Contact.** Lives with a person who tested positive for COVID-19. This carries the highest risk of transmitting the infection.

- **Other Close Contact.** The CDC defines 6 feet as how far coughing can spread the virus. How long the close contact lasts can also be important. **Prolonged close contact is defined as more than 10 minutes.** Close contact includes kissing, hugging or sharing eating and drinking utensils. It also includes close conversations. Direct contact with secretions with a person with COVID-19 is also close contact. Includes being in the same childcare room, classroom or carpool. These exposures are usually lower risk than living with an infected person.
- **In Same Building - Low Risk Exposure.** Being in the same school, place or worship, workplace or building carries a small risk for exposure.
- **In Same City - Low Risk Exposure.** Living in or traveling from a city or country where there is major community spread of COVID-19, also carries a small risk. These "hot spots" are identified by the CDC at [Coronavirus](#). Outdoor contacts are much safer than indoor contacts.