

COVID-19 Glossary & Frequently Asked Questions

Case investigation

Case investigation is part of the process of supporting patients with suspected or confirmed infection. Public health staff work with a patient to help them recall everyone with whom they have had close contact during the timeframe while they may have been infectious.

Close contacts

All persons considered to have contact with the infected person is a contact. A close contact is anyone who has been within 6 feet of the infected person for at least 15 minutes, cumulatively throughout a day.

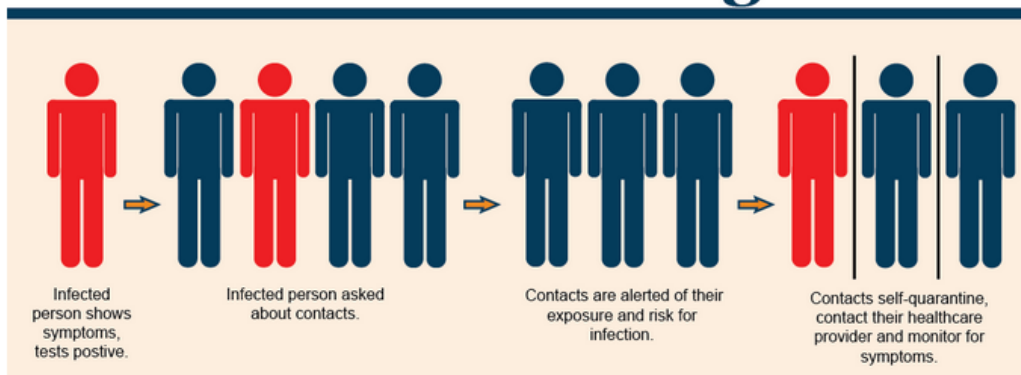
Contact listing

All persons considered to have contact with the infected person should be listed as contacts. Efforts should be made to identify every listed contact and to inform them of their contact status, what it means, the actions that will follow, and the importance of receiving early care if they develop symptoms. Contacts should also be provided with information about prevention of the disease. In some cases, quarantine or isolation is required for high risk contacts, either at home, or in the hospital.

Contact tracing

Contact tracing is the process of quickly identifying, assessing, and managing people who have been exposed to a disease to prevent additional transmission.

How Contact Tracing Works



Quarantine

Separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick.

Isolation

Separates sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick.

For more info:

www.franklinwi.gov

Wisconsin Department of Health Services

www.cdc.gov/covid19

Updated: 10/8/2020

COVID-19: Quarantine release times



Bureau of Communicable Diseases
Department of Health Services

**I have had close
contact with
someone
diagnosed with
COVID-19**

Quarantine
release



**14
days**
after your last
contact with
the diagnosed

If you are tested during your quarantine and the results are negative, **you still need to complete your full 14-day quarantine** before going back to work or being around others.

You could have been exposed to COVID-19 at some point and not enough time has passed for the test to pick it up.
You may test positive at a later date.



If you get sick, please follow the guidance in the [“Next Steps: while you wait for your COVID-19 test results.”](#)

P-02634 (08/2020)

For more info:

www.franklinwi.gov

Wisconsin Department of Health Services

www.cdc.gov/covid19

Updated: 10/8/2020

COVID-19: Isolation release times



Bureau of Communicable Diseases
Department of Health Services

**I have been
diagnosed with
COVID-19**

Isolation
release



Be well* for
24 hours
AND

At least 10 days
since symptoms
began

REMEMBER: To the extent possible,
separate yourself from and do not have
contact with other people in your household.

*free of fever and improvement in other symptoms

P-02632 (09/18/2020)

For more info:

www.franklinwi.gov

Wisconsin Department of Health Services

www.cdc.gov/covid19

Updated: 10/8/2020

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is an outbreak?

An outbreak in a business or other community setting is defined as 2 or more lab-confirmed COVID-19 positives within a 14-day period. Outbreaks will last no less than 14 days. If no further positive cases are reported within that 14-day period, the outbreak will be considered “resolved.”

2. When will the health department consider closing my business?

The health department works with businesses across the community to ensure appropriate safety measures are in place for employees, customers, clients, and patients. If the health department finds that the business is unable to put the appropriate safety measures in place to keep employees and patrons safe, the business may be closed for up to 14 days. If a business is unable to adequately maintain staffing or put mitigation strategies in place, the business should consider voluntarily closing temporarily before health department intervention.

3. What is considered an exposure?

An exposure is defined as any instance in which the individual comes in close contact (within 6 feet) of a known positive case for 15 minutes cumulatively throughout a day, or there is known droplet spread, i.e., sneezing, coughing, or spitting, sharing water bottle, kissing, etc.

4. Do COVID-19 positive employees need to be retested before returning to work?

No, this is not a requirement. It is up to the business to identify a timeline for when employees may return to work after an employee tests positive or has had an exposure. The health department recommends employees who test positive complete at least 10 days of isolation and be symptom-free for 24 hours before returning to work. The health department recommends employees who are “close contacts” complete a 14-day quarantine. The employee should monitor their symptoms and reach out to their medical provider if they develop symptoms.

5. Will the health department provide work releases?

No, the health department will not provide work releases for employees. The health department may issue isolation and/or quarantine orders for individuals. Individuals may then choose to share that with their employer if needed. The

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health department recommends that employees not return to work if they are symptomatic even if that is past the recommended isolation/quarantine period.

6. Where can my employees get tested?

Employees should call their medical provider for testing. The health department also recommends employees use [2-1-1](#) for a listing of testing sites in the region.

7. What are the cleaning/disinfection guidelines after a positive case?

We recommend cleaning and disinfecting per CDC guidelines:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>

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www.franklinwi.gov

[Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#)

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