Checklist for In-Home Care Settings with Suspected or Confirmed Cases of COVID-19

If a Health Care Personnel with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19 Worked While Contagious:

❑ **Immediately remove healthcare personnel (HCP) from work and direct them to the appropriate site to be tested.**
- o [Free or low-cost testing](#) is available at several locations, regardless of immigration status.
- o HCPs should be tested 48 hours or later from last exposure.
- o If more than two employees test positive in a 14-day period, notify your local health department within 24 hours.
- o Provide sick leave and benefit information to support isolation.
- o Let employee know that contact tracers may contact them and what to expect.
- o Exposed HCPs who are asymptomatic and fully vaccinated do not have to quarantine and should continue to monitor themselves for symptoms.

❑ **Be familiar with [HCP Return to Work criteria](#). HCPs who test positive for COVID-19 cannot return to work until after an isolation period:**
- o At least 10 days have passed since symptoms started, <u>and</u>;
- o At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications, <u>and</u>;
- o Other symptoms have improved.

❑ **Determine whether the client(s) was exposed and place client on quarantine if appropriate.**
- o Any person who was within 6 feet of a contagious COVID-19 case for at least 15 minutes.
- o A person is contagious 2 days before their illness onset, or if asymptomatic, 2 days before the test collection date of their positive test result.
- o For HCPs that see multiple clients, assess every home visit starting when they became contagious until they isolated from work to determine which clients were exposed.
- o Clients should quarantine after exposure regardless of vaccination status.
- o Quarantine should last 14 days from the LAST exposure.
- o Notify exposed clients of exposure and provide information about quarantining at home.

If an In-Home Care Patient/Client has Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19

❑ **Inform client and any HCP entering the home of quarantine/isolation status**
  o Patient/client should remain on quarantine until they receive a test result. If result is positive, patient/client should be in isolation.
  o If possible, the client should stay in a private room away from other family/household members, use a separate bathroom and eat meals away from household members. Keep room door closed if safe to do so.
  o HCP should wear appropriate PPE when delivering care to clients in quarantine or isolation. See L&I and DOH PPE Guidance for In-Home Care.
    ▪ Appropriate PPE includes gown, gloves, eye protection and a fit-tested respirator (N95 or elastomeric).
  o For symptomatic or exposed clients, be aware that a negative test does not rule out COVID-19 and the full quarantine must be completed. This is because it can take up to 14 days for infection to develop.
❑ **Work with your local health jurisdiction to trace all HCPs that may have been exposed to the client, and any other clients they may have exposed**
  o Refer to the above section for exposed HCPs.

More COVID-19 Information and Resources

Stay up-to-date on the current COVID-19 situation in Washington, Governor Inslee's proclamations, symptoms, how it spreads, and how and when people should get tested. See our Frequently Asked Questions for more information.

A person's race/ethnicity or nationality does not, itself, put them at greater risk of COVID-19. However, data are revealing that communities of color are being disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. This is due to the effects of racism, and in particular, structural racism, that leaves some groups with fewer opportunities to protect themselves and their communities. Stigma will not help to fight the illness. Share only accurate information to keep rumors and misinformation from spreading.

- WA State Department of Health 2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak (COVID-19)
- WA State Coronavirus Response (COVID-19)
- Find Your Local Health Department or District
- CDC Coronavirus (COVID-19)
- Stigma Reduction Resources

Have more questions? Call our COVID-19 Information hotline: **1-800-525-0127**

Monday – 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., Tuesday – Sunday and observed state holidays, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. For interpretative services, **press #** when they answer and **say your language.** For questions about your own health, COVID-19 testing, or testing results, please contact a health care provider.

To request this document in another format, call 1-800-525-0127. Deaf or hard of hearing customers, please call 711 (Washington Relay) or email civil.rights@doh.wa.gov.