

# PROTOCOL ONCE A PATIENT OR TEAM MEMBER IS EXPOSED TO COVID 19 IN THE WORKPLACE\*

## Universal Screening

Employers should measure each employee's temperature and assess symptoms every day prior to them starting work and at the end of the workday. Ideally, temperature checks should happen before the individual enters the facility such as in a hallway, parking lot, or other area outside the building.

1. **Contact Local Health Agency:** Immediately call your [local public health agency](#) or the Colorado Dept of Public Health and inform them of exposure and to seek advice from them
  - a. Look up your local public health agency:  
<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/find-your-local-public-health-agency>
  - b. Call the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment at 303-692-2700.
  - c. Expect that they will ask for contact tracing, PPE adherence, certainty of behaviors, social behaviors at front desk and in the clinical rooms, and they will ask about your in-office risk assessment with the team.
2. **Communicate with Team** Inform the dental team of exposure and discuss proximity to the exposed person.
  - a. If team is uncertain err on the side of protecting the health of your team and patients
  - b. Meet with them as group or individually as you deem appropriate (practice social distancing)
    - i. Reinforce this is about safety and not about performance, following procedures, or employment status
  - c. Perform a risk assessment of what was done and what could be improved on:
    - i. Did we follow PPE?
    - ii. Did we practice social distancing?
    - iii. What does the known positive individual risk and contact circle look like?
    - iv. Can we make an immediate change to reduce the risk from similar exposures?
    - v. Can we make longer term changes to reduce the risk from similar exposures?
  - d. Advise all team members that may have been at risk of exposure to self-quarantine at home for 14 days from the date of exposure –monitor

\* The protocol is guidance and not a directive. Dentists should follow the recommendations of the county health department and other governmental agencies if those recommendations differ from these.

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/critical-workers/implementing-safety-practices.html>

temperature, look for symptoms. Give them advice about their family health and take this seriously. The CDC has specific advice.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine-isolation.html>

- e. Additionally, symptomatic team members should remain in quarantine until at least ten days after symptom onset, as long as the person has been fever free for 3 days without the use of antipyretic medications (e.g. Tylenol) and other symptoms are improving or resolved.
3. **Communicate with Patients:** Call and inform any patients that were in the building during the time the exposed person was in the building. Describe their level of risk and direct them to public health resources. Collect the contact for these individuals to provide to local public health for contact tracing.
4. **Regular Monitoring:** As long as the asymptomatic employee doesn't have a temperature or symptoms, they should self-monitor under the supervision of their employer's occupational health program and seek guidance from their physician.
5. **Wear a Mask: Unless the employee is required to quarantine,** the employee should wear a face mask at all times while in the workplace for 14 days after last exposure. Employers can issue facemasks or can approve employees' supplied cloth face coverings for staff with minimal patient contact in the event of shortages. If an employee develops symptoms, they should be [sent home immediately](#).
6. **Social Distance:** All employees should maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from one another and from patients as work duties permit in the workplace.
7. **Disinfect and Clean workspaces:** Clean and disinfect all areas such as offices, bathrooms, common areas, shared electronic equipment routinely utilizing disinfectant effective against SARS-CoV-2
  - a. A list of effective disinfectants is available from the EPA:  
(<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>)

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