

Guidance for Positive Test Results for Patients

A patient who was recently treated in the practice reports that they or a member of their household has a confirmed case of COVID-19. Follow these steps to help manage the health of a team member who may have been exposed to the patient.

- 1. Identify** each staff member who came in contact with the COVID-positive patient.
- 2. Contact** your local county health department OR the NYSDOH Covid-19 hotline #1-888-364-3065.

3. Determine the level of risk (see chart page 2). The directive below will provide guidance while waiting for any additional instructions from your county health department.

High Risk = Refrain from work if symptomatic, monitor for symptoms, get tested.

***Staff who experience symptoms** should be tested, and those who **test positive** should immediately move to case management protocols outlined by the CDC and state and local public health departments. Those who **test negative** but experience fever or other symptoms should still actively monitor their health, isolate and **refrain from working for 10 days** after the exposure.

Low Risk = Continue to work, monitor symptoms.

Staff determined to have experienced a lower risk exposure may continue to work with appropriate personal protective equipment, as long as their temperature is normal and they do not exhibit any other symptoms of COVID-19. They should actively monitor their health for 10 days after the exposure.

***Staff who experience symptoms** **should be restricted from working and get tested.** If they test negative and their symptoms resolve, they may continue to work while monitoring themselves for 10 days. If they **test positive**, they should immediately move to case management protocols outlined by the CDC and state and local public health departments.

- 4. Return to work plan** is based on symptoms.

Dentists and staff who have been exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19 are allowed to continue to work if all of the following conditions are met. See complete list here: [healthcare return to work advisory](#).

As part of the re-opening plan in June, dentists agreed to review and adhere to operations and safety plans as outlined in [Dentistry Master Guidance, reopening NY](#). This includes the reporting of positive cases for screening and testing (page 8), tracing and tracking (page 10) and hygiene, cleaning and disinfection (page 7).

Low Risk vs. High Risk Assessment

LOW RISK

Exposure	PPE Used	Work Restrictions
<p>Prolonged close contact with person with COVID-19(+) (>15 min, within 6 feet)</p> <p>Other exposures to COVID-19(+) person</p>	Appropriate PPE worn	<p>No work restrictions</p> <p>Continue wearing appropriate PPE</p> <p>Monitor for symptoms</p>

HIGH RISK

Exposure	PPE Used	Work Restrictions
<p>Prolonged close contact with person with confirmed COVID-19 (>15 min, within 6 feet)</p>	Appropriate PPE NOT worn*	<p>Exclude from work for 10 days after last exposure, or until negative test results.</p> <p>Advise staff member to monitor for symptoms.</p> <p>If asymptomatic. return to work and continue to use appropriate PPE.</p> <p>Any staff member who develops fever or symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should immediately contact their health care provider to arrange for medical evaluation and testing.</p>

*example: staff remove masks and eat lunch together in staff breakroom