

COVID-19 FAQ

16. What defines an exposure to COVID-19, and can an employee continue work after being exposed?

Date Added: 03/31/20

Answer: The CDC has established various degrees of exposure ranking them as high risk, medium risk, low risk. Most EMS exposures to COVID-19 patients will be low risk. Low risk is defined as having a brief interaction with a patient with COVID-19 or prolonged contact with patients wearing a face mask for source control while the healthcare provider was wearing a face mask or respirator. Low risk exposures generally do not prohibit the employee from continuing to work if the employee is asymptomatic. There should be self-monitoring with delegated supervision until 14 days after the last potential exposure with temperature monitoring and other safeguards. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has issued guidance for EMS personnel which can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-for-ems.html>