

DO YOUR PART

Help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses like COVID-19 and the Flu.

WHAT TO DO IF A WORKER IS EXPOSED TO COVID-19 BUT IS NOT ILL (ASYMPTOMATIC)?

CDC's recommendations for managing critical infrastructure workers—including workers in the food sector—who have known or potential exposure to COVID-19 differ from recommendations for persons who are not critical infrastructure workers. Food facilities and workers should follow protocols set by the CDC and DHEC regarding workers with exposure to COVID-19 but are asymptomatic (do not have symptoms of COVID-19), and follow the guidelines listed below:

To ensure continuity of operations of essential functions, the CDC advises that critical infrastructure workers may be permitted to continue work following potential exposure to COVID-19, provided they remain asymptomatic and additional precautions are implemented to protect them and the community.

Potential exposure means having been in close contact with someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 48 hours before illness onset until the time the infected person is released from isolation. Close contacts should stay home and self-quarantine and self-monitor until 14 days from the last date of exposure. People who worked with an infected person during the same time period but were not close contacts are at lower risk and should carefully monitor themselves for symptoms for 14 days after the last date of exposure.

Critical Infrastructure workers who have had an exposure but remain asymptomatic should adhere to the following practices prior to and during their work shift:

- **Pre-screen:** Employers should measure the worker's temperature and assess symptoms prior to their starting work; ideally, workers should check their temperature before entering the facility.
- **Regular monitoring:** As long as workers do not have a fever or symptoms, they should self-monitor their temperature and symptoms.
- **Wear a face covering:** The worker should wear a face covering at all times while in the workplace for 14 days after last exposure; employers should issue cloth face coverings if a worker does not have one.
- **Physical distance:** The worker should maintain **six (6) feet** between themselves and other persons and practice physical distancing in the workplace as duties and space permit.
- **Clean and disinfect:** Clean and disinfect all areas such as offices, bathrooms, common areas, and shared electronic equipment routinely.

If the worker becomes sick during the day, they should be sent home immediately.

- Surfaces in their workspace should be cleaned and disinfected.
- The workplace supervisor should contact the DHEC Care Line at 1-855-472-3432 for guidance.
- Information on persons who had contact with the ill worker during the time the worker had symptoms and two days before the onset of symptoms should be compiled and provided to the DHEC Epidemiology Staff.
- Others at the facility with close contact within 6 feet of the worker during the two days before onset of symptoms should be considered exposed.
- Based on information gathered on the contacts, the DHEC Epidemiology staff will advise you if fellow workers may need to be notified of their possible workplace exposure to COVID-19, while maintaining the confidentiality of the COVID-19 positive worker.