Current evidence suggests that the virus that causes COVID-19 is transmitted between people through close contact and droplets. People most at risk of acquiring the disease are those who are in contact with or care for patients with COVID-19. This inevitably places health care workers (HCWs) at high risk of infection. Protecting HCWs is of paramount importance to WHO. Understanding how HCW exposure to COVID-19 virus translates into risk of infection is critical for informing infection prevention and control (IPC) recommendations. This data collection form and risk assessment tool can be used to identify IPC breaches and define policies that will mitigate HCW exposure and nosocomial infection.

This tool is for health care facilities with COVID-19 patients. The form should be completed for all HCWs who have been exposed to a patient with confirmed COVID-19. This tool aids in the risk assessment for HCWs after exposure and provides recommendations for their management.

The objectives are:

- To determine the risk categorization of each HCW after exposure to a COVID-19 patient (see below Part 1: COVID-19 virus exposure risk assessment form for HCWs);
- To inform the management of the exposed HCWs based on risk (see below Part 2: Management of health worker exposed to COVID-19 virus).

Facilities using these forms are encouraged to share deidentified data with WHO to guidance related to IPC. Data shared with WHO should not include any personably identifiable information (Questions 2A, 2B and 2G).

**Part 1: COVID-19 virus exposure risk assessment form for HCWs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Interviewer information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Interviewer name:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Interview date (DD/MM/YYYY):</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Interviewer phone number:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Does the HCW have a history of staying in the same household or classroom environment with a confirmed COVID-19 patient?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Does the HCW have history of traveling together in close proximity (within 1 meter) with a confirmed COVID-19 patient in any kind of conveyance?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Yes, to questions 1 D – 1E is considered community exposure to COVID-19. HCWs should be managed as such. The management recommendations in Part 2: Management of health workers exposed to COVID-19 virus apply only to exposure in health care settings.
## 2. Health worker information

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Last name:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. First name:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Age</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Sex:</td>
<td>☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Prefer not to answer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. City:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. Country:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. Contact details (phone number):</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### H. Type of health care personnel:

- ☐ Medical doctor
- ☐ Physician assistant
- ☐ Registered nurse (or equivalent)
- ☐ Assistant nurse, nurse technician (or equivalent)
- ☐ Radiology /X-ray technician
- ☐ Phlebotomist
- ☐ Ophthalmologist
- ☐ Physical therapist
- ☐ Respiratory therapist
- ☐ Nutritionist/dietitian
- ☐ Midwife
- ☐ Pharmacist
- ☐ Pharmacy technician or dispenser
- ☐ Laboratory personnel
- ☐ Admission/reception clerk
- ☐ Patient transporter
- ☐ Catering staff
- ☐ Cleaner
- ☐ Other (specify):   

### I. Type of health care facility:

Tick all that apply:
- ☐ Outpatient
- ☐ Emergency
- ☐ Medical unit
- ☐ Intensive care unit
- ☐ Cleaning services
- ☐ Laboratory
- ☐ Pharmacy
- ☐ Other, specify:   

---

## 3. Health worker interactions with COVID-19 patient information

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| A. Date of health worker first exposure to confirmed COVID-19 patient: | Date (DD/MM/YYYY): ___/___/_____  
  ☐ Not known |
| B. Name of health care facility where patient received care: |   |
| C. Type of health care setting: | ☐ Hospital  
  ☐ Outpatient clinic  
  ☐ Primary health centre  
  ☐ Home care for patients with mild symptoms  
  ☐ Other (specify):   |
| D. City: |   |
| E. Country: |   |
| F. Multiple COVID-19 patients in health care facility | ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown  
  If yes, number of patients (approximate if exact number not known):   |
4. HCW activities performed on COVID-19 patient in health care facility

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Unknown</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Did you provide direct care to a confirmed COVID-19 patient?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Did you have face-to-face contact (within 1 metre) with a confirmed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COVID-19 patient in a health care facility?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Were you present when any aerosol-generating procedures were performed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>on the patient? See below for examples</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- If yes, what type of procedure?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Did you have direct contact with the environment where the confirmed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COVID-19 patient was cared for?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E.g. bed, linen, medical equipment, bathroom etc</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Were you involved in health care interaction(s) (paid or unpaid) in</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>another health care facility during the period above?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If the health worker responds ‘Yes’ to any of the Questions 4A – 4D the health worker should be considered as being exposed to COVID-19 virus.

5. Adherence to IPC procedures during health care interactions

For the following questions, please quantify the frequency with which you wore PPE, as recommended: ‘Always, as recommended’ means more than 95% of the time; ‘Most of the time’ means 50% or more but not 100%; ‘occasionally’ means 20% to under 50% and ‘Rarely’ means less than 20%.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. During a health care interaction with a COVID-19 patient, did you wear</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>personal protective equipment (PPE)?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- If yes, for each item of PPE below, indicate how often you used it:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- 1. Single-use gloves</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- 2. Medical mask</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- 3. Face shield or goggles/protective glasses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- 4. Disposable gown</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Question</td>
<td>Always, as recommended</td>
<td>Most of the time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>B.</strong> During a health care interaction with the COVID-19 patient, did you remove and replace your PPE according to protocol (e.g. when medical mask became wet, disposed the wet PPE in the waste bin, performed hand hygiene, etc.)?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>C.</strong> During a health care interaction with the COVID-19 patient, did you perform hand hygiene before and after touching the COVID-19 patient (whether or not you were wearing gloves)?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>D.</strong> During a health care interaction with the COVID-19 patient, did you perform hand hygiene before and after any clean or aseptic procedure was performed (e.g. while inserting a peripheral vascular catheter, urinary catheter, intubation, etc.)?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>E.</strong> During a health care interaction with the COVID-19 patient, did you perform hand hygiene after exposure to body fluid?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>F.</strong> During a health care interaction with the COVID-19 patient, did you perform hand hygiene after touching the patient’s surroundings (bed, door handle, etc.), regardless of whether you were wearing gloves?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>G.</strong> During a health care interaction with the COVID-19 patient, were high-touch surfaces decontaminated frequently (at least three times daily)?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. Adherence to IPC measures when performing aerosol-generating procedures (e.g. tracheal intubation, nebulizer treatment, open airway suctioning, collection of sputum, tracheotomy, bronchoscopy, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), etc.).

For the following questions, please quantify the frequency with which you wore PPE, as recommended:

‘Always, as recommended’ means more than 95% of the time; ‘Most of the time’ means 50% or more but not 100%; ‘occasionally’ means 20% to under 50% and ‘Rarely’ means less than 20%.

**A.** During aerosol-generating procedures on a COVID-19 patient, did you wear personal protective equipment (PPE)?

- If yes, for each item of PPE below, indicate how often you used it:
  - 1. Single-use gloves
  - 2. N95 mask (or equivalent respirator)
  - 3. Face shield or goggles/protective glasses
  - 4. Disposable gown
  - 5. Waterproof apron
B. During aerosol-generating procedures on the COVID-19 patient, did you remove and replace your PPE according to protocol (e.g., when medical mask became wet, disposed the wet PPE in the waste bin, performed hand hygiene, etc.)?

- □ Always, as recommended
- □ Most of the time
- □ Occasionally
- □ Rarely

C. During aerosol-generating procedures on the COVID-19 patient, did you perform hand hygiene before and after touching the COVID-19 patient, regardless of whether you were wearing gloves?

- □ Always, as recommended
- □ Most of the time
- □ Occasionally
- □ Rarely

D. During aerosol-generating procedures on the COVID-19 patient, did you perform hand hygiene before and after any clean or aseptic procedure was performed?

- □ Always, as recommended
- □ Most of the time
- □ Occasionally
- □ Rarely

E. During aerosol-generating procedures on the COVID-19 patient, did you perform hand hygiene after touching the patient’s surroundings (bed, door handle, etc.), regardless of whether you were wearing gloves?

- □ Always, as recommended
- □ Most of the time
- □ Occasionally
- □ Rarely

F. During aerosol-generating procedures on the COVID-19 patient, were high-touch surfaces decontaminated frequently (at least three times daily)?

- □ Always, as recommended
- □ Most of the time
- □ Occasionally
- □ Rarely

7. Accidents with biological material

A. During a health care interaction with a COVID-19 patient, did you have any type of accident with body fluid/respiratory secretions?

- □ Yes
- □ No

- If yes, which type of accident?

- □ Splash of biological fluid/respiratory secretions in the mucous membrane of eyes
- □ Splash of biological fluid/respiratory secretions in the mucous membrane of mouth/nose
- □ Splash of biological fluid/respiratory secretions on non-intact skin
- □ Puncture/sharp accident with any material contaminated with biological fluid/respiratory secretions

Risk categorization of health workers exposed to COVID-19 virus

1. High risk for COVID-19 virus infection

The HCW did not respond ‘Always, as recommended’ to Questions:

- 5A1 – 5G, 6A – 6F
- Or responded ‘Yes’ to 7A.

2. Low risk for COVID-19 virus infection

All other answers
Part 1: Management of HCWs exposed to COVID-19 virus

The management of HCWs exposed to COVID-19 varies according to the risk categorization, as above.

Recommendations for HCWs at high risk for infection:

- Stop all health care interactions with patients for a period of 14 days after the last day of exposure to a confirmed COVID-19 patient;
- Be tested for COVID-19;
- Quarantine for 14 days in a designated setting.\(^1\)

Health care facilities should:

- Provide psychosocial support to HCW during quarantine, or throughout the duration of illness if HCW is confirmed to have COVID-19;
- Provide compensation for the period of quarantine and for the duration of illness (if not on a monthly salary) or contract extension for duration of quarantine/illness;
- Provide review of IPC training for the health care facility staff, including HCWs at high risk for infection after 14-day quarantine period.

Recommendations for health workers at low risk for COVID-19:

- Self-monitor temperature and respiratory symptoms daily for 14 days after the last day of exposure to a COVID-19 patient. HCWs should call the health care facility if they develop any symptoms suggestive of COVID-19;
- Reinforce contact and droplet precautions when caring for all patients with acute respiratory illness\(^2\) and standard precautions for all patients;
- Reinforce airborne precautions for aerosol-generating procedures on all suspected and confirmed COVID-19 patients;
- Reinforce the rational, correct, and consistent use of personal protective equipment;\(^3\)
- Apply WHO’s “My 5 Moments for Hand Hygiene” before touching a patient, before any clean or aseptic procedure, after exposure to body fluid, after touching a patient, and after touching a patient’s surroundings;\(^4\)
- Practice respiratory etiquette at all times.

References


WHO continues to monitor the situation closely for any changes that may affect this interim guidance. Should any factors change, WHO will issue a further update. Otherwise, this interim guidance document will expire 2 years after the date of publication.

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