

Guidance for Managing Potential Patient Exposure to COVID

Purpose: to provide guidance on how to manage patients in a multi-bed room when one patient tests positive for COVID or when a patient is exposed to a positive staff member.

If a patient is being tested for COVID, it is usually best to wait for test results to return before moving patients. If the test is positive or the clinician has strong concern for COVID in setting of negative test:

COVID positive/highly suspicious patient

Move the COVID+/highly suspicious patient to private room on COVID isolation with isolation sign at door

- move to an appropriate unit in hospital; negative pressure or HEPA- filtered room preferred, if available

Exposed patient

Patients are considered exposed if:

- Patient was in a room with a positive roommate for more than 2 hours or any amount of time if a selected AGP was performed (as outlined in PPE policy) during the COVID+ patient's infectious period
- Patient was cared for by a positive staff during their infectious period. The patient and staff member had close contact (within 6 feet for cumulative total of 15 minutes over a 24 hour period unless one or both of them (either patient or staff) were wearing a mask.
- The infectious period is 2 days prior to onset of symptoms or 2 days prior to the positive test if asymptomatic.
- **Exemptions to this include: The patient tested positive for COVID in the last 90 days or is fully vaccinated (>2 weeks post final dose).** They are considered to have immunity. This would be considered a low risk exposure and no further action needs to be taken.

Actions to be taken for exposed patient

- Move patient to a private room or close the other beds in a multi-bed room. Patient does not need to move to a space designated for COVID patients.
- Place Iso Reason of "Quarantine- Exposed COVID" in patient's chart
- Place patient on COVID isolation with isolation sign at door
- Notify Infection Prevention
- Perform COVID test upon identification of potential exposure and at day 10 post exposure
- Remove from quarantine when on day 11 if day 10 testing results return negative
- Patient may be discharged during the quarantine period. If being discharged to a facility, notify the receiving facility of quarantine status. The Iso Reason will remain on the chart for 14 days. Offer day 10 testing to patient as an outpatient.
- Notification to patient
 - MD to notify patient. CLEAR program available to assist with discussion regarding disclosure.
 - Each DN to determine process for MD notification
 - Notification to be documented in the patient's Epic chart
 - If patient identified after discharge, MD to call patient
 - Notifying them of exposure
 - Provide post exposure guidance
 - Offer testing to patient (Day 5-7 post exposure suggested) and instructions on how to get tested (order test with online scheduling or refer to Call Center to schedule).
 - If patient already discharged to a facility, IP will notify that facility and document that notification in the patient's Epic chart.