Enhanced Precautions for Colleagues with High-Risk

Updated September 22, 2020

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance for enhanced precautions for colleagues with high-risk exposures (both occupational and community-acquired).

Key Considerations:

Colleague has been identified as having a high-risk exposure, either occupational or community-acquired, and is following local ministry process for exposure management and processing.

Adhere to the following guidelines at work:

1. Wear procedure mask upon entry into the ministry-this includes both patient and non-patient facing (rationale is the procedure mask will offer higher level of source control than a cloth mask).
2. Always maintain 6 feet physical distancing in an enclosed space.
3. Avoid eating or drinking with colleagues in shared spaced (e.g. break room, ride sharing, small office spaced, etc.). Consider eating meals outside weather permitting.
4. Be aware of any symptoms of COVID-19 that may develop through the 14-day post-exposure period:
   - Colleague must notify supervisor that they experience a high-risk exposure and are following applicable requirements.
   - Colleague must self-monitor for symptoms and perform an on-site temperature check prior to their work shift in accordance with local ministry screening process.
     - Refer to the CDC list of symptoms
     - If the colleague has any symptoms of COVID-19 or fever as described in the Screening Tool or as defined by state and/or local health departments:
       1. Do not report to work
       2. Notify supervisor
       3. Follow local Ministry reporting policy/process (e.g. report to Employee Health, Occupational Health or Human Resources etc.).
   - An on-site temperature check must be performed prior to beginning of each shift according to local ministry procedure. Temperature check must be repeated approximately midway through the colleague’s shift.
     - If the colleague experiences a fever as described in the Screening Tool or as defined by state and/or local health departments, or experiences new onset of COVID-19 symptoms:
       1. The colleague must immediately don a procedure mask, even if they are currently wearing a cloth face covering.
       2. Notify their supervisor.
       3. Leave work.
       4. Follow their local ministry reporting process.
5. Maintain enhanced precautions for 14 days after the exposure incident, even if tested between days 5-7 and it is negative, as the incubation period for this infection is 2-14 days.
6. If providing care to severely immunocompromised patients (i.e. organ/BMT transplant/ stem cell), discuss patient assignment with supervisor and local infection Prevention/Control.
7. Maintain good hand hygiene and adhere to appropriate standard and transmission-based precautions.
8. As feasible, attend all scheduled meetings virtually and avoid other non-essential, in-person meetings unless part of routine work, e.g. interdisciplinary patient rounds.
If the colleague develops a fever as described in the Screening Tool or as defined by state and/or local health departments, or experiences new onset of COVID-19 symptoms:
  o Do not report to work
  o Notify their supervisor.
  o Follow their local ministry reporting process.

In addition to the process above, colleagues who should adhere to the following guidelines for self-isolation:

9. Self-isolate at home.
   o Remove work clothes immediately when arriving at home for self-isolation
   o When possible, do not share bedrooms or bathrooms.
   o Limit contact with others.
   o Wear masks around others.
   o Eat in separate areas-do not share dishes/eating utensils
   o Wash hands often.
   o Clean and disinfect high-touch items frequently. This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, handles, desks, toilets, faucets, sinks and electronics. Most household disinfectants are effective.
   o Wash and dry laundry.
     • Do not shake laundry
     • Laundry can be comingled with others.
     • Dry laundry on the hot setting, if possible.