



Public Health Update
**Interim Recommendations for Management of Exposed, But Asymptomatic,
Healthcare Personnel**
March 17, 2020

Situation

With increasing exposures within healthcare facilities and the guideline to self-quarantine, many healthcare facilities are now facing a shortage of healthcare personnel.

Recommendations

Healthcare facilities should continue to follow the latest CDC guidance for the management of exposed healthcare personnel (HCP): <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assesment-hcp.html>. This guidance addresses assessing risk of exposure, monitoring, and work restrictions. However, facilities could consider allowing asymptomatic HCP who have had an exposure to a COVID-19 patient to continue to work after consultation with their occupational health program. The decision to allow continued work should be made on an individual basis, with a thorough risk assessment. The risk assessment should include the HCP's level of exposure, ability to reliably undergo daily active monitoring, and the constraints the HCP's furlough would place on the facility's workforce. Once a decision is made to allow an asymptomatic HCP who has had an exposure to a COVID-19 patient to continue to work, the following steps should be implemented:

- HCP should undergo daily active monitoring prior to starting work. Active monitoring means measuring temperature and assessing for respiratory symptoms, including cough, sore throat and shortness of breath. This monitoring should continue until 14 days *after* last potential exposure.
- Healthcare facilities could consider requiring these HCP wear a facemask while at work for the 14 days after the exposure if the supply is sufficient.
- IF the HCP develops even mild symptoms consistent with COVID-19, they must cease patient activities, don a facemask (if not already wearing) and notify their supervisors and/or occupational health prior to leaving work.

Resources

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) - Interim U.S. Guidance for Risk Assessment and Public Health Management of Healthcare Personnel with Potential Exposure in a Healthcare Setting to Patients with Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19): <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assesment-hcp.html>

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fermin Leguen'.

Fermin Leguen, MD
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Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action

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