

Scenario example

An essential or critical infrastructure employee is exposed to a coworker who tests positive for COVID-19.



Joe, Paul, and Edwin work together.

- They are essential employees.
- They work the same shifts and work very close to each other.



Joe tested positive for COVID-19.

- The health department called Joe to find out who he had been in close contact with. They wanted to know all of the people he had been in close contact with (6 feet or 2 meters) for 15 minutes or more.
- Anyone in close contact with Joe up to 2 days before he got sick or tested positive should quarantine for 14 days. The health department will tell anyone who was in close contact with Joe when to get tested.
- Joe must isolate at home. He can't go to work until his symptoms start to get better and he has been fever-free for 24 hours without medicine AND it has been at least 10 days since he first had symptoms or tested positive.
- Joe's family has to quarantine for 14 days.

The health department will tell Joe's family when to get tested.



The health department called Paul and Edwin to tell them they had been in close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19.



Paul should quarantine at home for 14 days. He should not go to work.

- There is someone else who can do Paul's job while he is quarantined.
- Paul quarantines at home for 14 days so he does not get his coworkers sick.

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The health department will tell him when to get tested.

Paul's family does not have to quarantine UNLESS he gets sick or tests positive for COVID-19.



Edwin also had close contact with Joe.

- He SHOULD quarantine at home for 14 days, but there is no one else who can do his essential critical infrastructure job.
- If his employer lets him, he can go to work if he is not sick and DOES NOT have symptoms.
- Edwin needs to be very careful and needs to take extra precautions because he can get his coworkers sick.

The health department will tell Edwin when to get tested.

Edwin's family does not need to quarantine UNLESS Edwin gets sick.



Edwin can get other employees sick when he is at work. His employer needs to follow these safety measures for Edwin to come to work:

- Edwin needs to be screened for symptoms before his shift. His employer needs to take his temperature if possible and check for symptoms of COVID-19.
- Edwin needs to watch for symptoms of COVID-19 while he is at work. If he gets sick, he needs to go home right away.
- Edwin must wear a mask when he is at work for 14 days after the last time he was in close contact with Joe. His employer can give him a facemask or he can wear a cloth face covering.
- He should stay 6 feet or 2 meters away from other people and practice physical distancing as much as he can. He should also try to stay home as much as possible when he is not at work. He could still get sick with COVID-19.
- His employer should clean and disinfect all areas such as offices, bathrooms, common areas, and shared electronic equipment often.
- Edwin should not share headsets or other objects that may be used by his mouth or nose.
- His employer should work with maintenance staff to improve the ventilation by increasing air exchanges in rooms.
- His employer should close areas like breakrooms where employees are likely to be in groups.
- Edwin's employer should ask employees to stagger their breaks and not share food or utensils.