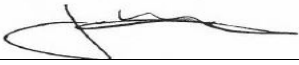


Guidance Document for COVID-19



Title: COVID-19 Contact Definitions for Admitted Patients	Version #: 1
Approved: Incident Manager Signature: 	Approval Date: January 8, 2022
<i>This document is intended to provide guidance to staff/professional staff during the COVID-19 Pandemic</i>	

Purpose: To outline COVID-19 contact definitions for patients exposed to COVID-19 positive health care workers as used by Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC).

Guidelines:

Not a contact	Low risk exposure	High risk exposure
A patient who had a transient interaction with the positive case (e.g., walked by the case or was briefly in the same room)	Close contact (>15 minutes <u>cumulative</u> if indirect or ≤15 minutes <u>cumulative</u> if direct) with the positive case (e.g. within 2 meters in an enclosed common area) when the <u>patient was wearing a surgical/procedure mask and the positive health care worker was wearing a surgical/procedure mask and eye protection.</u>	Close contact (>15 minutes <u>cumulative</u> if indirect or ≤15 minutes <u>cumulative</u> if direct) with the positive case (e.g., within 2 meters in an enclosed common area) where either the <u>patient was not wearing a surgical/procedure mask or the health care worker was not wearing a surgical/procedure mask or eye protection.</u>

IPAC applies these definitions when conducting contact tracing and investigating exposures to ensure appropriate isolation and case management.

Questions regarding patient exposures and contacts should be referred to IPAC. Questions regarding staff exposures and contact should be referred to Occupational Health and Safety.

References:

Ontario Ministry of Health. (2021). *COVID-19 Integrated Testing & Case, Contact and Outbreak Management Interim Guidance: Omicron Surge.*

https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/2019_guidance.aspx

All Hospital COVID-19 updates and resources are available on the iNtranet:

<https://comms.tbrhsc.net/covid-19-information>