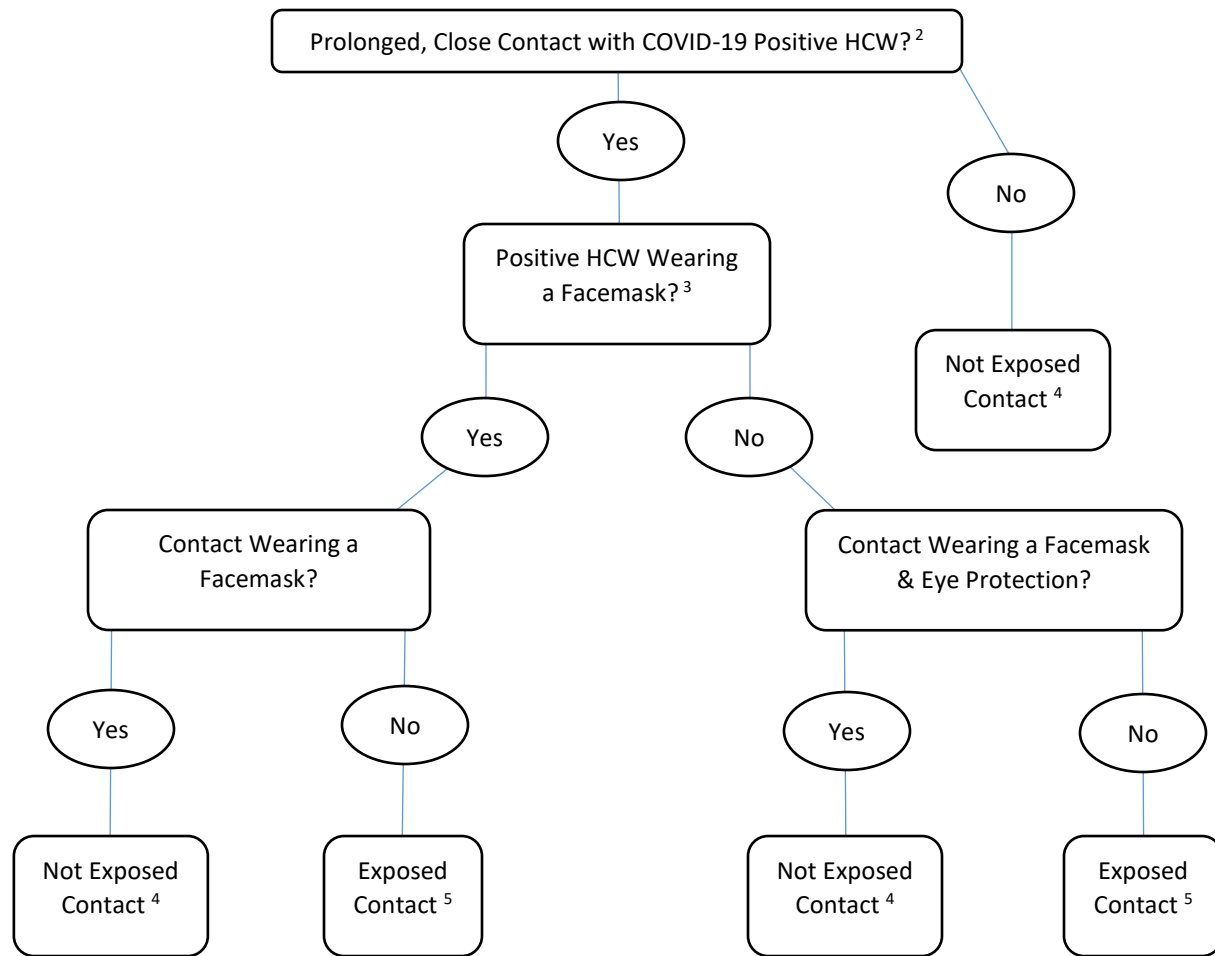


Determining Exposure for Contacts of a Positive HCW ¹ in the Healthcare Setting



1. Healthcare Worker (HCW) / Healthcare Personnel (HCP): HCW / HCP include, but are not limited to, emergency medical service personnel, nurses, nursing assistants, physicians, technicians, therapists, phlebotomists, pharmacists, students and trainees, contractual staff not employed by the healthcare facility, and persons not directly involved in patient care, but who could be exposed to infectious agents that can be transmitted in the healthcare setting (e.g., clerical, dietary, environmental services, laundry, security, engineering and facilities management, administrative, billing, volunteer personnel). For this guidance, HCW/HCP does not include clinical laboratory personnel.

2. Data are insufficient to precisely define the duration of time that constitutes a prolonged exposure. Until more is known about transmission risks, it is reasonable to consider an exposure of 15 minutes or more as prolonged.

Data are limited for the definition of close contact. For this guidance it is defined as:

- a) being within 6 feet of a person with confirmed COVID-19 **or**
- b) having unprotected direct contact with infectious secretions or excretions of the person with confirmed COVID-19.



3. Cloth face coverings are not considered PPE because their capability to protect HCP is unknown.
4. Not required to quarantine.
5. Healthcare providers and first responders who are exposed but not symptomatic should quarantine using [CDC guidance](#) and as adopted by [KDPH](#). If they are critical to healthcare work and a staffing crisis would ensue without them, they may be permitted to work, but required to wear a surgical mask at all times when on the job for 14 days after exposure. Whether quarantining or working, they should practice social distancing principles, actively monitor for symptoms, and self-isolate the moment any symptoms (e.g., elevated temperature, sore throat, cough or other respiratory symptoms, loss of smell or taste) arise. Healthcare workers who were exposed and develop symptoms should be tested immediately.