



Scenario-Based Questions:

1. *What is best practice if a client reports they 'may have had' contact with someone who is positive but the person hasn't received a positive test result back. Our client doesn't have a test yet but did have contact with staff, do we close until we know if anyone is positive?*
 - a. Close contacts do not need to self-quarantine until the individual has received a positive test result. Once they are confirmed positive, all close contacts of the individual should self-quarantine for 14 days from last exposure. Your business does not need to consider closure until you know of a confirmed positive case.
2. *What are employers doing when an employee's spouse/partner works with a co-worker who tested positive for the virus but the spouse is not sick & has no symptoms?*
 - a. Contacts of a close contact do not need to self-quarantine. The close contact should quarantine and self-monitor for symptoms. If symptoms develop and they test positive for COVID-19, then their close contacts will be advised to quarantine.
3. *What is best practice for dealing with potential positive employees? I have one employee and we service many clients throughout the day but allow only 1 -2 per hour in our space at a time, practice physical distancing, mandate masks, have cleaning protocols, and dividers in place. What if one of our clients reports to us that their friend might have had close contact with someone who is positive and they had close contact with that friend and now potentially if our client may have it they could have spread it to my staff and staff could have spread it to other clients. Should we just not worry unless our client has a positive test?*
 - a. Close contacts of a positive case are advised to self-quarantine once they become aware they were exposed to a confirmed positive case of COVID-19.
4. *Could you clarify that if someone has been exposed to the virus, then tests negative, do they still need to quarantine for 14 days?*
 - a. If someone has been exposed to a positive case of COVID-19, they need to complete their full 14 day quarantine, even if they are tested and the results come back negative. Since a test is only a point in time, close contacts are advised to finish their quarantine and continue to self-monitor for symptoms.
5. *For patients who have not been exposed but are symptomatic and do not get tested, what is the recommended amount of time to stay out of work? The full 10 days?*
 - a. Without a known exposure to a confirmed case of COVID-19, it's difficult to determine if the illness is COVID related or not. If there is an exposure, it would be recommended for the individual to complete a 10 day isolation from the onset of symptoms. However, if there is no exposure, employers are advised to refer back to their illness policies.
6. *The wife of an employee works for a man in another business who tested positive. Does the husband of that wife need to inform his business owners that his wife was "exposed." The wife showed no symptoms*
 - a. Contacts of a close contact do not need to quarantine or inform their employer. If the close contact begins to develop symptoms and then tests positive, then all of that individual's close contacts would be advised to quarantine.

Employer Best Practices During COVID-19: Virtual Town Hall

Q&A



Policies/Procedures:

1. *What options are employers using to pay employees who have a close family member (i.e., child or spouse) that tested positive for the virus?*
 - a. Public Health does not have expertise in COVID-related labor issues, but the following information may be helpful. The **Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA or Act)** requires certain employers to provide employees with paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave for specified reasons related to COVID-19. The US Department of Labor has a number of employer resources that detail the employee paid leave rights during the pandemic.
<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic/ffcra-employee-paid-leave>
<https://www.dol.gov/coronavirus>
2. *Are employers requiring evidence of testing/results to document when they pay employees whose family member tested positive?*
 - a. For some employers that we have worked with, letters from the Walworth County Public Health have been sufficient, but businesses may need to work with their governing organization to determine appropriate documentation.
3. *How are employers informing employees when an employee tests positive?*
 - a. Employers may use whichever strategy is most appropriate for their business setting. Confidentiality of the employee who tested positive must be protected. Walworth County Public Health will contact employers with pertinent information in the event of a positive case.
4. *How are employers informing employees about the family member of an employee who tested positive?*
 - a. Employers only need to inform employees if there is a positive case among staff or within the business. Employers will then be advised to identify the close contacts of the positive case within the business.
5. *Is there some way we could be notified of positive cases in groups such as manufacturers, employers, care centers, group homes, etc.?*
 - a. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services maintains information about COVID-19 facility investigations in each county: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/investigations.htm>

Health & Safety Precautions:

1. *Are any manufacturing companies allowing a face shield to be worn without a mask or face covering?*
 - a. Masks or face coverings should be worn under face shields. The CDC and OSHA have released guidance for manufacturing workers and employers:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-manufacturing-workers-employers.html>
2. *Why didn't the County HHS recommend a mandatory mask usage prior to the Governors mandate and will they once the emergency mandate expires?*
 - a. Health and Human Services has long supported widespread use of face coverings. Masks, however are only one of several tools necessary to slow the spread of COVID-19. We

Employer Best Practices During COVID-19: Virtual Town Hall

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- continue to believe that an educational strategy encouraging face coverings, good hygiene, and physical distancing will be most effective for sustained behavior change.
3. *When the pandemic started, we shut down our fitness center, pool and breakfast 100%. But we opened up our pool and limited breakfast to pre-packaged items only and fitness center is closed. We were wondering, is there a good time-frame we can open up our full hot breakfast again; its self-serve breakfast.*
 - a. At this time, it is still advised to implement these types of health and safety measures in your business. Policies that require face coverings, encourage physical distancing, and encourage proper hand hygiene can all help businesses to open up more of their facilities.
 4. *We require facemasks in our lobby, hallways, and elevator area but some guests get upset with the signs and when we ask them to have a cover over their faces. How do you handle the facemask situation?*
 - a. Normalizing face coverings in your business can help to encourage all guests and patrons to wear a face covering. It is ultimately your decision as a business/employer as to if you wish to refuse service to individuals who do not comply with your face covering policies.
 5. *Any specific recommendations for Adult Family Homes?*
 - a. The CDC offers resources for “Shared or Congregate Housing”.
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/shared-congregate-house/guidance-shared-congregate-housing.html> We suggest reviewing this information first and then contacting Public Health with specific questions that these resources do not answer.

Facilities:

1. *What about ventilation in our building? We only have baseboard hot water heating system. Should we use a fan to move the air around? We do have two ceiling fans and several floor fans (we have no air conditioning either). If we use the ceiling fans should they blow air downward or pull air upward?*
 - a. The CDC has extensive information about COVID-19 mitigation strategies in office buildings: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/office-buildings.html>. It is additionally advised to open windows or doors to increase outdoor air ventilation if seasonally appropriate.
2. *Interested in best practices that apply to businesses / retail that also apply to public buildings, especially any new/recent developments or recommendations.*
 - a. The CDC has extensive information about COVID-19 mitigation strategies in office buildings: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/office-buildings.html>. The CDC has also has resources for the cleaning/disinfection of public spaces: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html>
3. *Is a major cleaning of a workplace necessary after a positive case?*
 - a. Routine cleaning and disinfection is encouraged for all business regardless of if there has been a positive case or not. The CDC has also has resources for the cleaning/disinfection of public spaces: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html>



Community Questions:

1. *Will there be free community testing sites this fall in Walworth County?*
 - a. Testing information is regularly updated on the Walworth County Public Health website: <https://www.co.walworth.wi.us/873/Testing-Information>
2. *Is the county prepared to shut down bars and churches if there's another spike?*
 - a. Public Health has authority to issue orders against businesses and other organizations. This authority is limited to specific locations or businesses and may not issue blanket orders that target entire sectors like the Safer at Home Order, (e.g. all restaurants, all churches).
3. *Do I need to report to the county for contact tracing if one of our clients/staff test positive if they have come from another county?*
 - a. Local health departments identify close contacts to positive cases and notify the correct jurisdiction that the close contact resides in, therefore a phone call may not be warranted. During an outbreak situation, it is best advised to notify your health department of a positive employee from outside of your jurisdiction.
4. *What are your thoughts of swimming and the virus being transmitted? Pool has chlorine and other chemicals vs swimming in a large lake?*
 - a. Currently, there is no evidence of COVID-19 spreading through the use of recreational waters. The CDC has guidance for pools and other aquatic venues: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/parks-rec/aquatic-venues.html>
5. *At my restaurant we're following all the rules and doing everything we possibly can to stop the spread of Covid-19. My neighboring restaurants do NOT. Can I report them to you anonymously? One restaurant's employees don't wear masks until they walk around the corner where the guests are and you can see them in the kitchen without masks. Another restaurant has a server wearing a shield but NO mask. One major outbreak and all restaurants might be shut down and we all lose our livelihood.*
 - a. You may submit concerns about compliance with the statewide mask mandate at the Walworth County Public Health website: <https://www.co.walworth.wi.us/881/Mask-Mandate-Compliance-Concern>
6. *Why are college bars open in Whitewater? They don't mask at all inside.*
 - a. The Governor's Executive Order #1 requires face coverings in many settings. The order provides an exception to the requirement when people are eating and drinking.