

April 13, 2020

COVID-19 Daily Briefing Recap

Implications of Interim CDC Guidance

Critical Infrastructure Workers Who May Have Had Exposure to a Person with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19

Please note that the following is a recap of our COVID-19 Daily Briefing from April 13, 2020. Due to the rapidly evolving nature of the pandemic, we recommend that you consult the most up to date materials possible. Visit Jackson Lewis P.C.'s [COVID-19 resource page](#) for updates on workplace impacts and [sign up here](#) to receive invitations to future daily COVID-19 webinar briefings and email updates on ongoing legal and workplace health challenges.

Scope of New CDC Guidance

On April 9, the CDC issued [new interim guidance](#) for critical infrastructure workers with potential exposure to COVID-19.

Why is the new guidance important?

- Contradicts prior guidance on how to respond to potential exposure:
 - *Prior guidance*: All exposed individuals to self-quarantine for 14 days
 - *New guidance*: Critical infrastructure employees may continue to work following exposure provided they are asymptomatic and follow additional precautions
- Provides assistance to support workforce continuity within critical infrastructure sectors
- Not mandatory, but sets a risk standard

Who does the new guidance apply to?

Asymptomatic critical infrastructure workers who:

- *ARE NOT* showing signs of COVID-19 (fever, cough, shortness of breath)
- *BUT* have had potential exposure to COVID-19
- *AND* are working within a critical infrastructure sector as defined in the [Department of Homeland Security CISA guidance](#)

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What is “potential exposure”?

- Being a household contact or having close contact within six feet of an individual with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 (“person under investigation”)
 - Suspected includes unconfirmed, but symptomatic
- Contact within 48 hours of symptoms developing in person under investigation

Recommended Practices

Affected employees and their employers should adhere to the following practices prior to and during work shifts:

- **Pre-screen:** Measure an employee’s temperature, ideally before beginning work
- **Regular monitoring:** Any sign of other symptoms should be reported
- **Wear a mask:** Employer should provide, or approve, a mask for use for 14 days
- **Social distance:** Six feet rule; practice social distancing as work duties permit
- **Disinfect and clean workspaces:** Includes offices, bathrooms, common areas

Additional recommendations:

- Do not share headsets or other objects that are near an individual’s mouth or nose
- Work with maintenance staff to increase air exchanges in facilities
- Encourage social distancing by staggering breaks and making sure that employees do not congregate in breakrooms

Special Circumstances

- Healthcare workers are subject to [different guidance](#):
 - Categorizes low-, medium- and high-risk exposures for different protocols for asymptomatic employees to continue working
- Travel-associated COVID-19 exposure continues to have [separate guidance](#)

What if I have more questions?

As issues and concerns around COVID-19 unfold daily, employers must prepare to address the threat as it relates to the health and safety of their workforce. Keep up to date with [Jackson Lewis’ latest available information and resources](#). If you have any questions, please contact the Jackson Lewis attorneys with whom you regularly work.