



## COVID-19: CDC Guidance Update 10/21/20

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated its guidance regarding “close contact” and testing on October 21, 2020. We have highlighted the significant changes as follows:

- The biggest change is **close contact** is now considered any individual within 6 feet of an infected person for a **cumulative** total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to test specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated. *(They noted closer and longer exposure likely increases exposure risk).*
- Testing is recommended for all close contacts of confirmed or probable COVID-19 patients. The EEOC has even issued guidance that testing is considered job-related and consistent with business necessity if, it is used to confirm an employee’s negative COVID-19 status so that they may return to the workplace. The employee does need to be working in an “in-person” capacity, where there is a threat of infection to others.
- Asymptomatic contacts testing negative should self-quarantine for 14 days from their last exposure (i.e. close contact encounter with confirmed or probable COVID-19 patient).
- If testing is not available, symptomatic close contacts should self-isolate and be managed as probable COVID-19 case.
- Asymptomatic close contacts who are not tested should self-quarantine and be monitored for 14 days after their last exposure, with linkage to clinical care for those who develop symptoms.
- The businesses we support would be classified as a Priority 1 (educational institutions) and many of our employees would be classified as a Priority 2 (individuals over 65 years of age or at higher risk for severe disease) IF our area were to have limited testing support.

Effective immediately, our policy will reflect these changes made by the CDC. In addition to the 14-day quarantine period for close contacts of confirmed or probable COVID-19 patients, ESI requires a negative test result and phone consultation with our HR Officer in order to be cleared to return to work.

COVID-19 reports of possible exposure or diagnosis should be made directly to our HR Officer, Kim Gibbs, confidentially by phone at 480-840-7453 or email to [kim@esiaz.us](mailto:kim@esiaz.us).

We also wanted to share a CDC resource site (update 10/27/20) that provides a good visual representation of different scenarios we may encounter and how to explain when to quarantine and for how long. This is a great resource we encourage you to review. [CDC Resource: When to Quarantine](#)