

COVID-19 Contact Risk Categories

Below are the guidelines that MDH uses to notify contacts of Symptomatic laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases

Risk Level	Exposures Identified through Contact Investigation
High	Living in the same household as, being an intimate partner of, or providing care in a nonhealthcare setting (such as a home) for a person with symptomatic laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 infection without using recommended precautions for home care and home isolation
Medium (assumes no exposures in the high-risk category)	<p style="text-align: center;">Close contact with a person with symptomatic laboratory-confirmed COVID-19</p> <p>Close contact is defined as:</p> <p>a) being within approximately 6 feet (2 meters) of a COVID-19 case for a prolonged period of time (e.g., ≥1 hour); close contact can occur while caring for, living with, visiting, or sharing a healthcare waiting area or room with a COVID-19 case</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-or-</p> <p>b) having direct contact with infectious secretions of a COVID-19 case (e.g., being coughed on)</p> <p>On an aircraft, being seated within 6 feet (two meters) of a traveler with symptomatic laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 infection; this distance correlates approximately with 2 seats in each direction</p> <p>On a cruise with a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 case (this assumes the known case does not put the person in the high-risk category - e.g., family member, travel companion)</p> <p>Living in the same household as, an intimate partner of, or caring for a person in a nonhealthcare setting (such as a home) to a person with symptomatic laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 infection while consistently using recommended precautions for home care and home isolation</p>
Low (assumes no exposures in the medium or high-risk categories)	Being in the same indoor environment (e.g., a classroom, a hospital waiting room) as a person with symptomatic laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 for a prolonged period of time but not meeting the definition of close contact
No identifiable risk	Interactions with a person with symptomatic laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 infection that do not meet any of the high-, medium- or low-risk conditions above, such as walking by the person or being briefly in the same room.