Steps to Take if a Patient Reports COVID-19 Exposure After Treatment

ADA®

A patient that was recently treated in the practice has reported that they or a member of their household has a confirmed case of COVID-19. Follow these steps to help manage the health of any team members who may have been exposed to that patient.

Finding out that a patient or close family member has tested positive for COVID-19 can be a cause for concern for you and anyone in the practice who may have interacted with the patient during the appointment. These steps will help guide you through what you should do if someone in your practice tests positive for COVID-19.

Identify each staff member, both clinical and administrative personnel, who had contact with the patient during the appointment. Assess the level of risk exposure for staff:

Staff determined to have had higher risk exposure should actively monitor their health, isolate and refrain from working for 14 days after the exposure.

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assesment-hcp.html

- Those who do not develop a fever or other symptoms of COVID-19 can return to work with appropriate PPE.
- Those that do experience any symptoms should be tested for SARS-CoV-2.
  - Staff who test positive for COVID-19 should immediately move to case management protocols outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state/local departments of public health.
  - Those with negative test results but who experienced fever or other symptoms should actively monitor their health, isolate and refrain from working for 14 days after the exposure.

Staff determined to have had lower risk exposure can continue to work with appropriate PPE and should actively self-monitor their health for 14 days after the exposure.

- Those without a fever or other symptoms of COVID-19 can continue to work.
- Those that do experience any symptoms should be restricted from working and get tested for SARS-CoV-2.
  - Staff testing negative for COVID-19 and whose symptoms have resolved can continue to work and should continue to self-monitor for 14 days.
  - Those testing positive should immediately move to case management protocols outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state/local departments of public health.

If, at any time, it's determined that a staff member has contracted the virus, following the steps outlined in the ADA's resource What to Do if Someone on Your Staff Tests Positive for COVID-19 can help ensure the health and safety of others in the practice and reduce the likelihood of additional transmissions. Dentists are urged to follow the recommendations of the CDC and state/local public health authority for additional steps. See the CDC's Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Healthcare Settings for guidance on infection control in a healthcare setting.

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