



**Joint Guidance for the Florida Fire Service
GUIDELINES FOR POTENTIAL EXPOSURES TO COVID-19 AT WORK**



Because of our extensive and close contact with vulnerable individuals in patient care settings, a conservative approach to Fire Service Personnel monitoring and applying work restrictions is recommended to prevent transmission from potentially contagious responders to patients and other employees. Occupational health programs should have a low threshold for evaluating symptoms and testing Fire Service Personnel.

This guidance applies to personnel with potential exposure to patients or other employees with confirmed COVID-19. Exposures can also occur from a suspected case of COVID-19 or from a person under investigation (PUI) when testing has not yet occurred or if results are pending. Work restrictions described in this guidance might be applied to personnel exposed to a PUI if test results for the PUI are not expected to return within 48 to 72 hours. Therefore, a record of personnel exposed to PUIs should be maintained. If PUI test results will be delayed more than 72 hours or the patient is positive for COVID-19, then the work restrictions described in this document should be applied.

All agencies should develop “universal source control” practices to help limit and avoid exposures.

PLACE A MASK ON ALL PATIENTS

Exposure	Personal Protective Equipment (any of these)	Work Restrictions
Personnel who had prolonged* close contact with a patient or employee with confirmed COVID-19***	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personnel not wearing a respirator or facemask** or, Personnel not wearing eye protection if the person with COVID-19 was not wearing a cloth face covering or facemask or, Personnel not wearing all recommended PPE (i.e., gown, gloves, eye protection, respirator) while performing an aerosol-generating procedure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exclude from work for 14 days after last exposure and, Advise personnel to monitor themselves for fever or symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and, Any personnel who develop fever or symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should immediately contact their established point of contact (e.g., occupational health program) to arrange for medical evaluation and testing.
Personnel other than those with exposure risk described above	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No work restrictions Follow all recommended infection prevention and control practices, including wearing a facemask for source control while at work, monitoring themselves for fever or symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and not reporting to work when ill, and undergoing active screening for fever or symptoms consistent with COVID-19.

Personnel with [travel](#) or [community](#) exposures should inform their occupational health program for guidance on need for work restrictions and reference FFCA-FPF Joint Guidance for Potential Community Exposures to COVID-19 by Fire Service Personnel

* The definition of “prolonged” has been extended to refer to a time period of 15 or more minutes, which aligns with the time period used in the guidance for [community exposures](#). Any duration should be considered prolonged if the exposure occurs during performance of an [aerosol-generating procedure](#).

** While respirators confer a higher level of protection than facemasks and are recommended when caring for patients with COVID-19, facemasks still confer some level of protection to personnel, which was factored into this risk assessment. Cloth face coverings are not considered PPE because their capability to protect responders is unknown.

***Consider the exposure window to be 2 days before symptom onset (or positive test results for asymptomatic individuals) through the time period when the individual meets [criteria for discontinuation of Transmission-Based Precautions](#)