**SARS-CoV2 Incident Response**

**Post-Exposure Standing Orders**

**Management of SARS-CoV2 Exposure**

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| The Designated Medical Provider (DMP) for personnel working with SARS-CoV2:* During normal business hours (M-F 8 am – 4:00 pm): UCH Infectious Diseases Group Practice at 720-848-0191.
* Weekends, holidays, after-hours: UCH Emergency Department at 720-848-9111.
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1. **Background and Clinical Information**
	1. Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a viral respiratory illness. The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are fever, dry cough, fatigue, and shortness of breath. Symptoms can progress to pneumonia and acute lung injury, an end stage lung disease with limited treatment options that can be fatal in approximately 1-2% of cases. Persons over the age of 60, immunocompromised persons, or persons with co-morbidities including hypertension and diabetes are at increased risk for severe COVID-19.
	2. COVID-19 is caused by infection with severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) coronavirus (CoV)-2, a member of the *Betacoronavirus* genus in the subfamily *Orthocoronavirinae.* SARS-CoV2 is primarily transmitted by respiratory droplets and contact of contaminated hands with eyes, nose, and mouth. The incubation is not well known, but currently available data suggest 2-14 days.
	3. Diagnosis of SARS-CoV2 infection can be performed by RT-PCR analysis of nasal or oral swabs or by tests the measure the presence of SARS-CoV2 specific antibody in plasma or serum. RT-PCR tests are most reliable at day 0-6 post-illness onset.
2. **Pre-exposure Health Screening**
	1. Employees must enroll in the UCD Occupational Health Program and will be provided a copy of this information at the initiation of work in laboratories in which SARS-CoV2 is present.
	2. Workers with concerns about pre-existing medical conditions should make an appointment with the Occupational Health Clinics to discuss their concerns with an Occupational Health provider.
	3. Work with the SARS-CoV2 virus and some COVID-19 (+) specimens requires respiratory protection and employees must complete a respiratory evaluation with the UCD Occupational Health Program.
3. **Preventative Measures/Vaccine information**
	1. Effective vaccines are becoming available and researchers working with the SARS-CoV-2 virus and some types of specimens are encouraged to get vaccinated when they qualify for vaccination.
4. **Potential or Overt Exposures**.
	1. **Known exposure to SARS-CoV2:** Exposure is defined as needle sticks or cuts with contaminated material, splash to unprotected face, direct contact of contaminated material with broken skin, or failure of respiratory protection with aerosol generating event outside of the biosafety cabinet.
	2. Develops **symptoms consistent with SARS-CoV2** exposure, such as:
		1. Fever
		2. Dry cough
		3. Fatigue
		4. Shortness of breath
5. **After an Exposure Occurs: Immediate Actions by Route of Infection**
	1. **Needle stick or laceration**: Wash the area with soap and running water.
	2. **Mucous membranes (eye, mouth):** If contaminated material is ingested, rinse mouth with clean water. If contaminated material is splashed or sprayed into the eyes, flush the eyes with water for 10-15 minutes.
	3. **Contact with intact skin and clothing:** Remove contaminated clothing using gloves and place objects in plastic bags. Wash skin with soap and water.
	4. **Report exposure** incidents immediately to the supervisor.
6. **After an Exposure Occurs: Medical Evaluation**
	1. If an exposure event occurs, the employee will immediately go into home isolation based in CDC guidelines (currently 14 days).
	2. During normal business hours (M-F 8am-4:30pm), call the *Infectious Disease Group Practice* at 720-848-0191 requesting an “Phone Appointment for possible SARS-CoV2 exposure.”
		1. The IDGP staff will contact the Occupational Health Program Medical Director or the on-call clinic provider to coordinate an appointment.
	3. While in home isolation, the employee will perform regular symptom surveillance which includes monitoring and recording temperature twice per day, presence of dry cough, fatigue, or shortness of breath.
	4. During home isolation, the employee will communicate regularly with the Occupational Health clinic and the ID physician.
	5. **During weekends, holidays, and after-hours**, report to the *UCH Emergency Department* for evaluation and ask for the “Infectious Diseases Attending Doctor on Call.”
7. **After an Exposure Occurs: Post exposure prophylaxis**
	1. There is no effective post-exposure prophylaxis at this time.
	2. Treatment for symptoms include: rest, fluids to prevent dehydration, medication to relieve fever and pain.
	3. If symptoms progress to shortness of breath, the employee should immediately make an appointment for a full medical evaluation with the ID physician assigned to the case.
8. **After an Exposure Occurs: Reporting**
	1. If SARS-CoV2 exposure occurs, this will be treated as a potential failure of biosafety measures. The PI and Lab manager must be informed immediately. The PI must inform the Biosafety Officer (BSO) within 72 hours of diagnosis. The BSO will complete a formal re-evaluation of laboratory safety procedures to determine the possible event(s) that may have contributed to this exposure.
	2. Within 4 days of potential or overt exposure, the individual or supervisor must file a Worker’s Compensation claim with the University Risk Management office by website: [**https://www.cu.edu/risk/**](https://www.cu.edu/risk/)
9. **University Risk Management / Worker’s Compensation Program**
	1. The mission of University Risk Management (URM) is to reduce and mitigate the potential for loss to the University of Colorado. URM operates at the University of Colorado System level, with representatives and offices at each campus.
	2. The University of Colorado provides worker’s compensation (WC) coverage, as required by state regulation, for employees who are injured during the course and scope of employment. Employees or other personnel covered by the WC program are required by state law to file their claims with the employer within four (4) working days.
	3. Forms are available for online submission on the URM website (preferred), or can be printed out and filed as a hard copy. If an employee is incapacitated, the supervisor should initiate the claim form upon becoming aware of the workplace exposure or injury.
	4. URM website: [**https://www.cu.edu/risk/**](https://www.cu.edu/risk/)