

What is a “Close Contact”?

A “close contact” is someone who has been exposed to a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 in a way that raises the chances that they themselves could have become infected. It’s important to know that just because you work or spend time with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 doesn’t necessarily mean you are a “close contact” and are at risk. Please consider the following:

Were you within 6 feet of a person who has tested positive for Covid-19 for more than 15 minutes?

If “yes”, then that would classify as “close contact”. Your risk is greater if you weren’t wearing a mask.

Did you have close physical contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 for any length of time? (Close physical contact includes things such as kissing and hugging, sharing food or drinks, as well as having someone cough or sneeze on you.)

If “yes”, then that would classify as a “close contact”, even if you were wearing a mask, or masks.

What to do next?

If you are a “close contact” it is strongly recommended that you quarantine as much as possible and limit your contact with others for at least 7 days from the last time you were in contact with the person who tested positive. Most people begin to show symptoms within 7 days of exposure, although some symptoms can develop after 7 days.

Be aware of the common symptoms of COVID-19:

- New loss of taste or smell
- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Diarrhea
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat

Visit the Pennsylvania Department of Health [Coronavirus Symptoms & Testing webpage](#) to find out more about testing. Pennsylvania and Bucks County Health officials highly encourage residents and employees to download the free [COVID Alert PA App](#), which alerts Pennsylvanians to possible close contact to those that tested positive for COVID-19.