

Exposure Risk Categories

These categories are interim and subject to change.

- CDC has established the following exposure risk categories to help guide public health management of people following potential SARS-CoV-2 exposure in jurisdictions that are not experiencing sustained community transmission. These categories may not cover all potential exposure scenarios. They should not replace an individual assessment of risk for the purpose of clinical decision making or individualized public health management.
- All exposures apply to the 14 days prior to assessment.
- Use this chart to determine risk category.

Risk Categories for Exposures Associated with International Travel or Identified during Contact Investigations of Laboratory-confirmed Cases

Risk Level	Geographic (Travel-associated) Exposures*	Exposure Identified through Contact Investigation
High	Travel from Hubei Province, China	Living in the same household as, being an intimate partner of, or providing care in a non-healthcare setting (such as a home) for a person with symptomatic laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 without using recommended home care precautions.
Medium (assumes no exposures in the high-risk category)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Travel from mainland China outside Hubei Province or Iran• Travel from a country with widespread sustained transmission, other than China or Iran• Travel from a country with sustained community transmission• Travel from an area in the United States with sustained community transmission	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Close contact with a person with symptomatic laboratory-confirmed COVID-19• 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• 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 home care precautions.
Low (assumes no exposures in the high-risk category)	Not applicable	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	Not applicable	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.

Summary of CDC Recommendations for Management of Exposed Persons with by Risk Level and Presence of Symptoms

The public health actions recommended in the table below apply to people who have been determined to have at least some risk for COVID-19. People who are being managed as asymptomatic in a particular risk level who develop signs or symptoms compatible with COVID-19 should be moved immediately into the symptomatic category in the same risk level and be managed accordingly. The risk level does not change if symptoms develop.

Risk Level	Management if Asymptomatic	Management if Symptomatic**
High Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarantine (voluntary or under public health orders) in a location to be determined by public health authorities. No public activities. Daily active monitoring, if possible based on local priorities Controlled travel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Immediate isolation with consideration of public health orders Public health assessment to determine the need for medical evaluation; if medical evaluation warranted, diagnostic testing should be guided by CDC's PUI definition If medical evaluation is needed, it should occur with pre-notification to the receiving HCF and EMS, if EMS transport indicated, and with all recommended infection control precautions in place. Controlled travel: Air travel only via air medical transport. Local travel is only allowed by medical transport (e.g., ambulance) or private vehicle while symptomatic person is wearing a face mask.
Medium Risk	<p>Close contacts in this category:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendation to remain at home or in a comparable setting Practice social distancing Active monitoring as determined by local priorities Recommendation to postpone long-distance travel on commercial conveyances 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self-isolation Public health assessment to determine the need for medical evaluation; if medical evaluation warranted, diagnostic testing should be guided by CDC's PUI definition If medical evaluation is needed, it should ideally occur with pre-notification to the receiving HCF and EMS, if EMS transport indicated, and with all recommended infection control precautions in place. Controlled travel: Air travel only via air medical transport. Local travel is only allowed by medical transport (e.g., ambulance) or private vehicle while symptomatic person is wearing a face mask.

Medium Risk	<p>Travelers from mainland China (outside Hubei Province) or Iran</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation to remain at home or in a comparable setting • Practice social distancing • Self-monitoring with public health supervision as determined by local priorities • Recommendation to postpone additional long-distance travel on commercial conveyances after they reach their final destination <p>Travelers from other country with widespread transmission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation to remain at home or in a comparable setting, • Practice social distancing • Self-monitoring • Recommendation to postpone additional long-distance travel on commercial conveyances after they reach their final destination <p>Travelers from country with sustained community transmission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice social distancing • Self-observation 	
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Low Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No restriction on movement • Self-observation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-isolation, social distancing • Person should seek health advice to determine if medical evaluation is needed. • If sought, medical evaluation and care should be guided by clinical presentation; diagnostic testing for COVID-19 should be guided by CDC's PUI definition. • Travel on commercial conveyances should be postponed until no longer symptomatic.
No identifiable risk	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-isolation, social distancing • Person should seek health advice to determine if medical evaluation is needed. • If sought, medical evaluation and care should be guided by clinical presentation; diagnostic testing for COVID-19 should be guided by CDC's PUI definition. • Travel on commercial conveyances should be postponed until no longer symptomatic.

EMS = emergency medical services; HCF = healthcare facility; PUI = Person Under Investigation for COVID-19

**For the purpose of this document: subjective or measured fever, cough, or difficulty breathing.

Note: The public health management recommendations made above are primarily intended for jurisdictions not experiencing sustained community transmission. In jurisdictions not experiencing sustained community transmission, CDC recommends that post-exposure public health management for asymptomatic exposed individuals continue until 14 days after the last potential exposure; however, these decisions should be made based on the local situation, available resources, and competing priorities. These factors should also guide decisions about managing symptomatic exposed individuals.