

Management of Cohorted Patient Exposure to COVID

TYPE OF INFORMATION: Informational

INTENDED AUDIENCE: Patient Command Center & Acute Care Site Leaders

Situation S	Request for guidance on management of patients exposed to a COVID positive roommate.
Background B	CDC guidance states asymptomatic patients do not require empiric use of transmission-based precautions while being evaluated for COVID post exposure to close contact, provided a mask can be worn for source control.
Assessment A	If a cohorted patient is identified as COVID positive, the roommate is moved to another private room and is monitored for symptoms. Since hospitalized patients may be unable to continuously wear a mask for source control, the roommate is placed in empiric transmission-based isolation for 7-10 days following exposure (where day of exposure is day 0) and monitored for symptoms. Duration of empiric transmission-based precaution is dictated by whether a viral test-based strategy is employed or not.
Recommendation R	Infection Prevention recommends maintaining empiric transmission-based precautions for roommates exposed to COVID patients until one of the following criteria are met: • If a viral test-based strategy is employed, the patient may be removed from empiric transmission-based precautions after day 7 (where day of exposure is day 0) if they do not develop symptoms and all viral testing completed as part of the strategy outlined below is negative. ○ Viral test-based strategy*: Exposed patients should have a series of three viral tests for COVID-19. Testing is recommended immediately (but not earlier than 24 hours after the exposure) and, if negative, again 48 hours after the first negative test and, if negative, again 48 hours after the second negative test. This will typically be on day 1 (where day of exposure is day 0), day 3, and day 5. • If no viral test-based strategy is employed, patients may be removed from empiric transmission-based precautions after day 10 following the exposure (where day of exposure is day 0) if they do not develop symptoms. * Since some patients may have a prolonged positive test after they are no longer contagious, testing is not recommended for asymptomatic patients who have recovered from COVID in the prior 90 days.
Questions? Please contact: Site Infection Prevention	