WHAT IS COVID-19?

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. Patients with COVID-19 have experienced mild to severe respiratory illness, including fever, cough and shortness of breath. The virus that causes COVID-19 is a novel (new) coronavirus. It is not the same as other types of coronaviruses that commonly circulate among people and cause mild illness, like the common cold.

HOW DOES COVID-19 SPREAD?

The virus that causes COVID-19 is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person, between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet) through respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads.

IDENTIFICATION OF WORKERS EXEMPT FROM EXECUTIVE ORDER 20-08 (DIRECTIVE TO STAY AT HOME)

- On March 23, 2020, Gov. Eric J. Holcomb issued Executive Order 20-08 (Directive for Hoosiers to Stay at Home) directing Hoosiers to stay at home or their place of residence to prevent the spread of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).
- Workers at Essential Businesses and Operations, including Healthcare and Public Health Operations, Human Services Operations, Essential Government Functions and Essential Infrastructure, are exempt from the directive to stay at home.
- For more information:
  - Please call the Critical Industries Hotline at 877-820-0890 or email covidresponse@iedc.in.gov.
  - Please note that this hotline is intended only for business and industry questions.

PUBLIC HEALTH MANAGEMENT OF WORKERS WHO HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO SARS-COV-2

The recommendations for public health management of people who have been exposed to SARS-CoV-2 are different for essential critical infrastructure workers in the human healthcare sector, essential critical infrastructure workers in non-human healthcare sectors, and people who are not essential critical infrastructure workers. These differing recommendations are intended to balance the need to minimize the spread of SARS-CoV-2 by people with recognized exposures against the need to maintain services in critical infrastructure sectors.

Definition of Critical Infrastructure Sectors

- The Department of Homeland Security Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) has identified 16 Critical Infrastructure Sectors whose assets, systems and networks — whether physical or virtual — are considered so vital to the United States that their incapacitation or destruction would have a debilitating effect on security, national economic security, national public health or safety, or any combination thereof.

- These sectors include:
  - Chemical
  - Commercial Facilities
  - Communications
  - Critical Manufacturing
  - Dams
  - Defense Industrial Base
  - Emergency Services
  - Energy
  - Financial Services
  - Food and Agriculture
  - Government Facilities
  - Healthcare and Public Health
  - Information Technology
  - Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste
  - Transportation Systems
  - Water and Wastewater Systems

Definition of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers

· The Department of Homeland Security Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce provides a comprehensive list of "essential critical infrastructure workers" in the 16 critical infrastructure sectors.

1. *Public Health Management of People who are Not Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers Who Have Been Exposed to SARS-CoV-2*
   - People who are not essential critical infrastructure workers and who have been exposed to SARS-CoV-2 should enter self-quarantine at home or in a comparable setting for two weeks.
   - During the 2-week self-quarantine period, these employees should:
     - Practice social distancing from other members of the household.
     - Perform self-monitoring for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 as instructed by local or state public health authorities.
     - Postpone long-distance travel on commercial conveyances.

2. *Public Health Management of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers Exposed to SARS-CoV-2*
   (Non-Human Healthcare Sectors)
   - Based on the needs of individual jurisdictions, and at the discretion of state or local health authorities, essential critical infrastructure workers outside of the human healthcare sector may be permitted to continue work following potential exposure to SARS-CoV-2, provided they remain asymptomatic.
   - Personnel who are permitted to work following an exposure should self-monitor under the supervision of their employer's occupational health program, including taking their temperature before each work shift to ensure that they do not have a fever.
   - On days that these employees are scheduled to work, the employer's occupational health program could consider measuring temperature and assessing symptoms prior to the employee starting work. If this is done, it should be with the employee at rest and in a climate-controlled environment.
   - ISDH does not recommend that employees attend work if their measured body temperature is higher than 99.5°F (under the arm) or 100°F (oral).

3. *Public Health Management of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers Exposed to SARS-CoV-2*
   (Human Healthcare Sector)
   - Essential critical infrastructure workers in the human healthcare sector exposed to SARS-CoV-2 in healthcare settings should be managed according to existing CDC guidance.

PUBLIC HEALTH MANAGEMENT OF WORKERS WHO HAVE ILLNESSES COMPATIBLE WITH COVID-19

- Employees who have a measured body temperature higher than 99.5°F (armpit) or 100°F (oral), a new cough, or new onset of shortness of breath should be separated from other employees and sent home immediately. The affected employee's access to the business should be restricted until they have recovered.
- Employees with the above signs and symptoms should enter self-isolation at home.
- If medical evaluation is needed:
  - The receiving healthcare facility should be notified in advance so that recommended infection control precautions can be put in place. Emergency medical services should also be notified if emergency transport is indicated.
  - Diagnostic testing should be guided by CDC'S Criteria to Guide Evaluation and Laboratory Testing for COVID-19
- Employees with the signs and symptoms above should not travel by air except for air medical transport. Local travel is only allowed by medical transport (e.g., ambulance) or private vehicle while the symptomatic person is wearing a face mask.
- Employees with the signs and symptoms above who have a positive test for SARS-CoV-2 or who have not been tested for SARS-CoV-2 should stay home until they are free of fever (without the use of medication) for at least 72 hours (three full days) AND symptoms have improved for at least 72 hours AND at least seven days have passed since symptoms first began.
- Employees with the signs and symptoms above who have a negative test for SARS-CoV-2 should stay home until they are free of fever (without the use of medication) for at least 24 hours.
- Workers with the signs and symptoms above should not be required to obtain a healthcare provider's note to validate the illness or to return to work; healthcare provider offices and medical facilities may be extremely busy and not able to provide such documentation in a timely way.

WHAT BUSINESSES AND EMPLOYERS CAN DO TO PREPARE

- Allow as many employees as possible to work from home by implementing policies in areas such as teleworking and video conferencing. People at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19 are urged to stay in their residence to the maximum extent possible, except as necessary to seek medical care.
- Ensure that your sick leave policies are up to date, flexible and non-punitive to allow sick employees to stay home to care for themselves, children or other family members. Consider encouraging employees to do a self-assessment each day to check if they have any COVID-19 type symptoms (fever, cough or shortness of breath).
- Reinforce key messages to all employees (including stay home when sick, use cough and sneeze etiquette and practice hand hygiene), and place posters in areas where they are most likely to be seen. Provide protection supplies such as soap and water, hand sanitizer, tissues and no-touch disposal receptacles for use by employees.
- Frequently perform enhanced environmental cleaning of commonly-touched surfaces, such as workstations, countertops, railings, door handles, and doorknobs. Use the cleaning agents that are usually used in these areas and follow the directions on the label. Provide disposable wipes so that commonly used surfaces can be wiped down by employees before each use.
- Be prepared to change business practices, if needed, to maintain critical operations (e.g., identify alternative suppliers, prioritize customers, or temporarily suspend some of your operations).

AUTHORITY OF LOCAL HEALTH OFFICERS

This guidance is not intended to supersede the authority granted to local health officers by IC 36-1-3 (Home Rule). However, local health officers are encouraged to consider the benefits of a standardized approach for essential critical infrastructure workers, since critical infrastructure sectors operate across jurisdictional boundaries.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information and resources for COVID-19 are available at the links below.

- ○ ISDH Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) webpage
- ○ CDC's Resources for Businesses and Employers