A patient that was recently treated in the practice has reported that they or a member of their household has a confirmed case of COVID-19. Follow these steps to help manage the health of any team members who may have been exposed to that patient.

Finding out that a patient or close family member has tested positive for COVID-19 can be a cause for concern for you and anyone in the practice who may have interacted with the patient during the appointment. These steps will help guide you through what you should do if someone in your practice tests positive for COVID-19.

Identify each staff member, both clinical and administrative personnel, who had contact with the patient during the appointment. If the staff member has been fully vaccinated, see the CDC's public health recommendations for vaccinated persons. For non-vaccinated staff, or incompletely vaccinated staff, assess the risk of exposure:

- **Staff determined to have had higher risk exposure** should actively monitor their health, isolate, and ideally refrain from working for **14 days** after exposure.
- **Staff determined to have had lower risk exposure** can continue to work with appropriate PPE and should actively self-monitor their health for **14 days** after the exposure.

**The CDC has also allowed for the following options:**
If no signs or symptoms are exhibited throughout the isolation, staff may return to work after **10 days** without need for testing, or return after **7 days** if a negative test is obtained within 48 hours of the planned discontinuation.

- Those who do not develop a fever or other symptoms of COVID-19 can return to work after the appropriate isolation time has passed.
- If any staff member develops signs or symptoms consistent with contracting COVID-19, please refer to Protocols to Follow if a Staff or Household Member is COVID-19+.

- Those without a fever or other symptoms of COVID-19 can continue to work.
- If any staff member develops signs or symptoms consistent with contracting COVID-19, please refer to Protocols to Follow if a Staff or Household Member is COVID-19+.

Dentists are urged to follow the recommendations of the CDC and state/local public health authority for additional steps. See the CDC’s Interim U.S. Guidance for Risk Assessment and Work Restrictions for Healthcare Personnel with Potential Exposure to COVID-19 for guidance on infection control in a healthcare setting.

Disclaimer. These materials are intended to provide helpful information to dentists and dental team members. They are in no way a substitute for actual professional advice based upon your unique facts and circumstances. This content is not intended or offered, nor should it be taken, as legal or other professional advice. You should always consult with your own professional advisors (e.g. attorney, accountant, insurance carrier). To the extent ADA has included links to any third party website(s), ADA intends no endorsement of their content and implies no affiliation with the organizations that provide their content. Further, ADA makes no representations or warranties about the information provided on those sites.

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