

OUTAGAMIE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

COVID-19 CLOSE CONTACT CLARIFICATIONS

What does it mean to be a close contact of someone with COVID-19?

You are a "close contact" if **any** of the following situations happened while you spent time with the person with COVID-19, even if they didn't have symptoms:

- Had direct physical contact with the person (for example, a hug, kiss, or handshake).
- Were within 6 feet of the person for a total of more than 15 minutes in a single day.
- Had contact with the person's respiratory secretions (for example, coughed or sneezed on; contact with a dirty tissue; shared a drinking glass, food, towels, or other personal items).
- Live with the person or stayed overnight for at least one night in a household with the person.

If you had **contact with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19** (at home, work, school, or anywhere else), you may be at risk of infection. Follow these recommendations for 14 days since your last close contact with someone with COVID-19. It is important to **self-quarantine and self-monitor** to protect yourself, your family, and your community.

As a close contact, what does it mean to quarantine?

- Stay home
 - If you are in quarantine and home from school or the workplace, it DOES NOT mean it is ok to go to other places or participate in activities such as athletics
- Avoid travel
- Go out only if absolutely necessary
- Postpone all non-essential medical appointments until your quarantine is over
- Do not use public transportation, ride-sharing, or taxis
- Wear a face cover when you are around others

I was wearing mask, why am I or my child still considered a close contact?

- DHS currently recommends that everyone wear a face mask or face covering in public, even if you don't feel sick, to help reduce your risk of spreading COVID-19 to others by blocking respiratory droplets.
- Wearing a face mask or covering while you spend time with someone with COVID-19, even if the person with COVID-19 was also wearing a mask, likely reduces your risk of getting COVID-19, but may not prevent it entirely.
- If you and/or the person with COVID-19 was wearing a face mask or covering during any of the above situations, you are still considered a close contact.

Sources:

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p02598a.pdf>

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/diagnosed.htm>

Created: 9/11/2020

Updated:

