



## **What makes someone a “close contact” of a person with COVID-19?**

**Updated: October 20, 2020**

Close contacts are people who were within 6 feet of a COVID-19 infected person for more than 15 minutes after that person was diagnosed or during the two days before that person first developed symptoms.

This applies even if both people are wearing a face covering, mask, or an N95 respirator. Close contact can also take place during brief interactions where there is unprotected direct contact with the COVID-19 infected person’s body secretions (sneezing, coughing, sharing utensils, saliva).

Cumulative exposures that add up to 15 minutes within a day may be considered close contact depending on intensity of exposure (e.g., did the person have multiple interactions in a confined space with a symptomatic COVID-19 infected person).

### **Do close contacts apply to everybody?**

Close contacts do not include healthcare workers who use infection control precautions, including all recommended personal protective equipment, while caring for someone with COVID-19.