

I/488/2022



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**Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences**

Raebareli Road, Lucknow-226 014 (India)

No. 32 /PGI/DIR/DC/2022

Dated : 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2022**OFFICE ORDER****Sub: Implementation of guidelines for Management of Healthcare Worker Exposure to SARS-CoV-2.**

It has been observed that some instances of hospitals having closed down as several health care workers (HCWs) working there turned out to be positive for Covid-19 (3<sup>rd</sup> wave). This leads to undue apprehension among Health Care Workers, sometimes leading to impaired functionality of such hospitals.

Keeping in view the above, all Heads of the Departments, Faculty, Officers, Nodal Officers and Health Care Workers (HCWs) are directed to ensure the compliance to the guidance on for Management of Healthcare Worker Exposure to SARS-CoV-2.

**Enclosure-**

- 1- Guidance on for Management of Healthcare Worker Exposure to SARS-CoV-2.

  
 13/1/22  
**(R.K. DHIMAN)**  
**DIRECTOR**

**Copy to :-**

1. Additional Director, SGPGI.
2. Chief Medical Superintendent, SGPGI.
3. All Heads of the Departments, SGPGI.
4. Nodal Officer-RCH, SGPGI.
5. All concerned faculty members, Officers & HCWs, SGPGI.
6. Prof. Uttam Singh, HOD-BHI, SGPGIMS with the request to kindly upload this order on Institute's website.
7. Guard Book.
- 8.

  
**(R.K. DHIMAN)**  
**DIRECTOR**



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## Guidance on Management of Healthcare Worker Exposure to SARS- CoV-2

### Background

There have been some instances of hospitals having closed down as several health care workers (HCW) working there turned out to be positive for COVID -19. This leads to undue apprehension among healthcare workers, sometimes leading to impaired functionality of such hospitals.

Although Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has issued comprehensive guidance to prevent occurrence of Hospital Acquired Infection (HAI) in health facilities, the practice of universal precautions might still be lacking in many of our hospitals. A COVID-19 case with mild/asymptomatic/atypical presentation may go undetected and inadvertently transmit the infection to other patients and healthcare workers, placing these individuals at risk of contracting disease and compromising the functionality of the healthcare facility.

### Purpose of document

This document aims to provide guidance on management of Healthcare Worker Exposure to SARS- CoV-2 working in the institute.

The **risk of exposure** will be stratified according to table below:

	Duration > 15 min	Distance < 1 meter	Patient without Mask	Person exposed Without Mask
Name of contact	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No

**Note:** Only contacts with all “Yes” in the above table will be considered as “high risk”

All HCWs who have come into contact with an infected person/patient without protection, within 1-meter distance from infected person, for more than 15-minutes, will be identified as **high-risk contacts (HRC)**. Apart from the above, if HCW’s eyes, nose, or mouth is exposed to material potentially containing SARS-CoV-2, particularly if these

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HCP were present in the room for an aerosol-generating procedure, they will also be identified as **high-risk contacts (HRC)**. All the rest of the exposed individuals will be labeled as **low risk contacts (LRC)**.

### **Actions to be taken for after HCW Exposure to COVID-19:**

#### **High Risk contacts**

1. If the exposed HCW is totally asymptomatic, **no work restrictions will be imposed if they have received all COVID-19 vaccine doses as recommended by CDC.**
2. A COVID RT-PCR should be performed immediately (but generally not earlier than 24 hours after the exposure) and, if negative, again 5-7 days after the exposure.
3. Those who have not received both doses of COVID vaccine then they should be quarantined, and an RT-PCR should be done after 5 days, and they can return to work if they test negative.
4. Exposed HCW should follow all standard infection prevention and control practices, including wearing well-fitting source control, monitoring themselves for fever or symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and should not report to work if they become symptomatic and inform the departmental surveillance committee immediately.

#### **Low Risk Contacts**

1. No work restriction is recommended for LRCs. All LRCs should follow all standard infection prevention and control practices, including wearing well-fitting source control, monitoring themselves for fever or symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and should not report to work if they become symptomatic and inform the departmental surveillance committee immediately.