

## Safe workplace practices

v. 07/21/2020

This message is in regards to CDC-defined criteria for occupational exposure to COVID-19 and suggestions for risk mitigation in clinical and non-clinical settings. In this update, we provide additional guidance for universal eye protection.

- Per the CDC, exposure is mitigated if both the source case and a susceptible individual are both masked.
- If source case is unmasked, an exposure occurs if a susceptible individual is within 6 feet of a source case for at least 15 minutes AND without a standard face mask and eye protection.
- The importance of eye protection when interacting with unmasked patients and families has been underscored in prior PPE guidance to prevent transmission from symptomatic and/or asymptomatic patients and families. However, it has been observed that compliance with masking by patients and families is imperfect, and this presents potential risk to healthcare workers.
- To further limit risk to healthcare workers, eye protection (goggle or face shields) should now be worn with ALL patient encounters in the inpatient, ambulatory and ED settings irrespective of patient COVID-19 results.
- For COVID positive or COVID unknown patients undergoing high-risk aerosol generating procedures, a face shield is preferred as it provides additional protection from contaminating the N95 respirator.
- Please follow PPE Extended Use/Reuse guidance ([PPE Extended Use/Reuse Guidelines](#)) for reusing currently provided disposable eye protection.
- Personal non-disposable eye protection is in process of being secured by the hospital, and soon all patient-facing healthcare workers will be provided personal non-disposable goggles that they should disinfect and reuse for all patient counters. There will be more information forthcoming regarding this issue.

Our guidance for improving safety in clinical and non-clinical environments are focused on these risk factors.

### Clinical environment:

- Continue to perform COVID-19 screening tests on inpatients and prior to surgical procedures.
- Continue to utilize the multiple layers of screening for symptoms of COVID-19 and isolate patients with symptoms per the PPE algorithms on the COVID-19 site.
- Continue universal masking of healthcare workers and patients.
- Wear eye protection for all patient encounters.
- Maintain 6 feet from patient and family during healthcare encounter as much as possible.
- In ambulatory and ED settings where COVID-19 status is unknown, when it is essential to be within 6 feet of an unmasked asymptomatic patient, wear eye protection (goggles or face shield) during that time.
  - [Initial PPE Algorithm in Ambulatory/ED Settings](#)

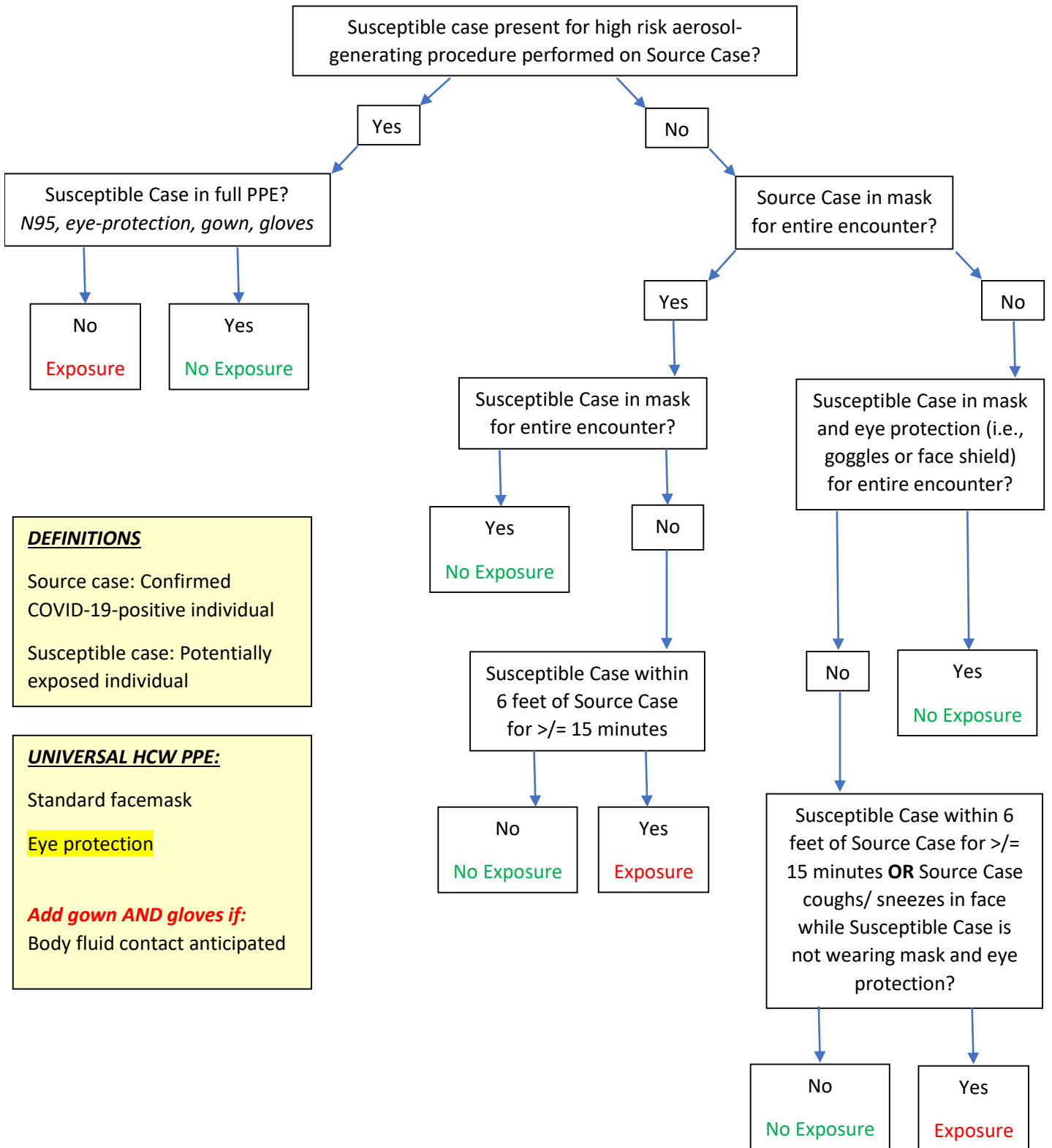
### Non-clinical environment:

- Continue to screen yourself for fever and other symptoms of COVID-19 twice daily and report illness to your manager and employee health. All symptomatic employees will be offered COVID-19 testing.
- Continue universal masking.
- Maintaining 6 feet of distance from co-workers is essential during activities when your mask is removed, such as during meal breaks.
- Hospital leadership have worked with department leadership to restructure the work environment to improve safety in work spaces. If concerns, please discuss these changes with your department leadership.

Employee health will work with infection control to identify exposed healthcare workers, if you are exposed (see flowchart below), the following will be done:

1. Optional, one-time testing will be available within 14 days of exposure, preferably 4-7 days after exposure.
2. HCW may continue to work until symptoms develop or testing positive for COVID-19.
3. If HCW develops symptoms at work, send them home and arrange testing. If HCW develops symptoms at home, they should not report for work.
  - a. If symptomatic HCW is COVID-19-positive, HCW may return to work after a minimum of 10 days, provided their symptoms are improving and the last 3 days are fever free without fever reducing medications.
  - b. If symptomatic HCW is COVID-19-negative, HCW may return to work when fever free for 24 hours and symptoms improving.
4. If asymptomatic HCW tests positive, they should be sent home if at work, and not report for work if at home.
  - a. If asymptomatic HCW remains asymptomatic, they may return to work 10 days from positive test.
  - b. If asymptomatic HCW becomes symptomatic, return to work per 3a above.

**COVID-19 Exposure Work-up Algorithm**  
(Revised Version 7/20/20)



**DEFINITIONS**

Source case: Confirmed COVID-19-positive individual

Susceptible case: Potentially exposed individual

**UNIVERSAL HCW PPE:**

Standard facemask

**Eye protection**

**Add gown AND gloves if:**  
Body fluid contact anticipated

\*Call Infection Prevention and Control (x74290) with questions regarding exposure determinations\*