



AN EMPLOYEE HAS BEEN IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH A PERSON DIAGNOSED WITH COVID-19 – NOW WHAT?

On September 18, 2020, the Center for Disease Control (“CDC”) updated its COVID-19 guidance regarding individuals who have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19 but are asymptomatic. Previously, the CDC recommended that individuals who have had close contact with a person with COVID-19 stay home for 14 days. The CDC now requires testing for individuals who have had close contact with COVID-19 and recommends self-isolation for 14 days, even if the test result is negative.

The excerpt from the CDC’s updated guidance is below.

If you have been in close contact (within 6 feet) of a person with documented SARS-CoV-2 infection for at least 15 minutes and do not have symptoms:

- **You need a test. Please consult with your healthcare provider or public health official. Testing is recommended for all close contacts of persons with SARS-CoV-2 infection. Because of the potential for asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic transmission, it is important that contacts of individuals with SARS-CoV-2 infection be quickly identified and tested. Pending test results, you should self-quarantine/ isolate at home and stay separated from household members to the extent possible and use a separate bedroom and bathroom, if available.**
- **A single negative test does not mean you will remain negative at any time point after that test.**
- **Even if you have a negative test, you should still self-isolate for 14 days.**

The link to the updated guidance is available [here](#).

At work, if an employee reports a diagnosis/positive test result for COVID-19, the employee must be asked to identify who at work the employee has had "close contact" with since exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 or since the employee's exposure to COVID-19. According to the updated CDC's guidance, any employees identified as being in close contact with a person with COVID-19 must be tested and should stay home for 14 days.

If an employee reports being in close contact **outside of work** with a person who has COVID-19, according to the CDC’s guidance, the employee should be instructed to stay out of work for 14 days and to get tested.



Mary Jo Kennedy

✉ mkennedy@bulkley.com
☎ 413-272-6242



Sarah Willey

✉ swilley@bulkley.com
☎ 413-272-6228



Kevin Maynard

✉ kmaynard@bulkley.com
☎ 413-272-6244



Christopher St. Martin

✉ cstmartin@bulkley.com
☎ 413-272-6278