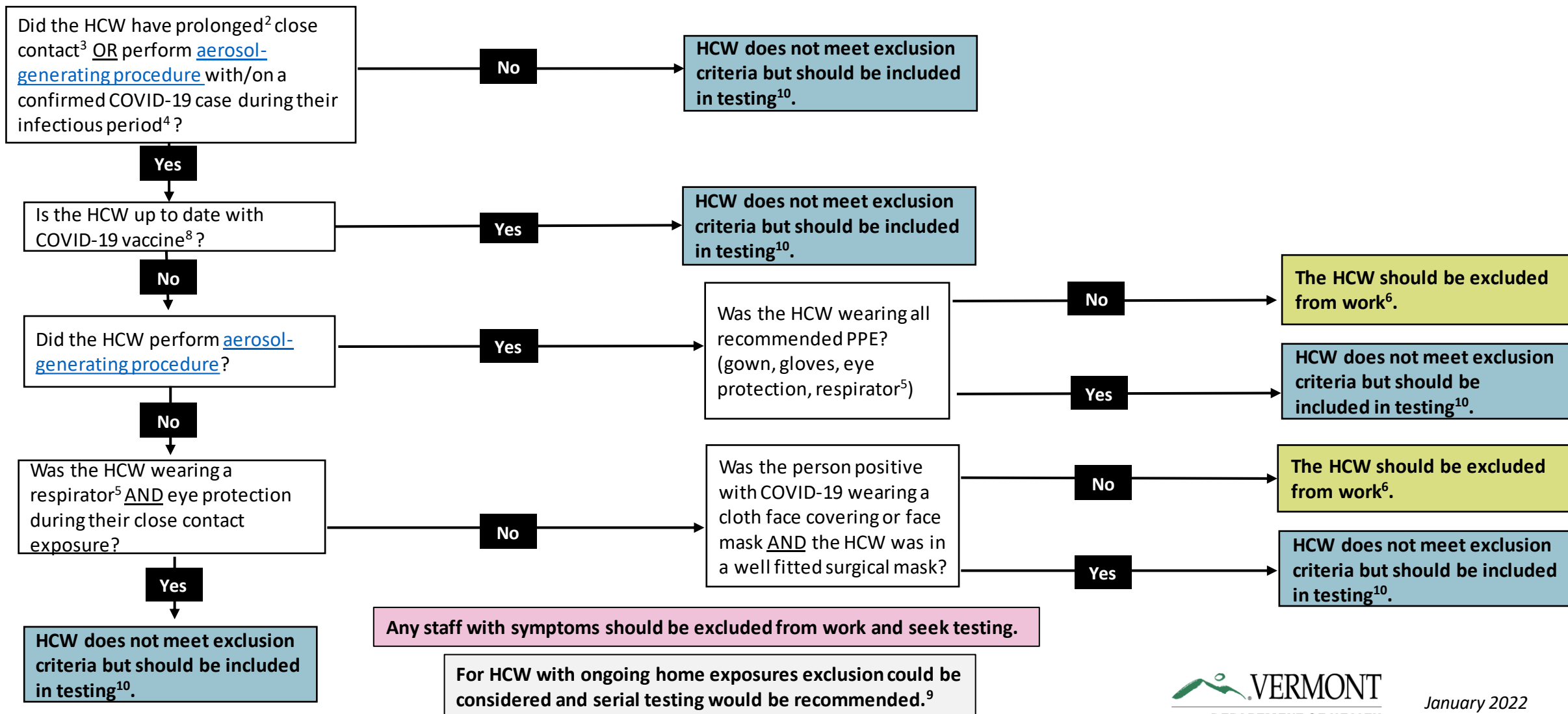


Guidance for Work Exclusions among Health Care Workers who have been Exposed to COVID-19

Use this chart to help determine if a health care worker¹ (HCW) who had contact with someone with confirmed COVID-19 **should be excluded from work** or **does not meet exclusion criteria**. Due to contact with vulnerable populations, the best practice is to take a conservative approach monitoring and applying work restrictions according to this guidance. We understand these approaches may not always be feasible while maintaining safe staffing and managing staff shortages⁷. This document is based on [CDC guidance for HCP](#).



Additional Notes:

1. For this guidance, [CDC's definition of healthcare personnel](#) (HCP) will be used to define health care workers (HCW). HCW include, any persons at the facility providing direct patient care or persons not directly involved in patient care, but who could be exposed to infectious agents that can be transmitted in the healthcare setting. This may include students and trainees, contractual staff, and volunteer personnel. See link above for more detailed explanation and examples.
2. For this guidance, **prolonged** is defined as 15 minutes or more accumulative over a 24 hour period. However, consider **any duration** prolonged if the exposure occurred when performing of an [aerosol-generating procedure](#).
3. For this guidance, close contact is defined as: a) being within 6 feet of a person with confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection or b) having unprotected direct contact with infectious secretions or excretions of the person with confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection. *Distances of more than 6 feet might also be of concern, particularly when exposures occur over long periods of time in indoor areas with poor ventilation.
4. Determining the **infectious period** of someone with COVID-19:
 - For someone **with symptoms**, the infectious period starts 2 days before symptoms began and continues until they meet the criteria to discontinue isolation.
 - For someone **who never developed symptoms**, the infectious period starts 2 days before the day of test collection and continues until they meet the criteria to discontinue isolation
5. A respirator is a personal protective device that is worn on the face, covers at least the nose and mouth, and is used to reduce the wearer's risk of inhaling hazardous airborne particles (including dust particles and infectious agents), gases, or vapors. Respirators are certified by CDC/NIOSH, including those intended for use in healthcare. Does not include surgical mask.
6. HCWs who meet criteria should be excluded through day 10 after the most recent exposure (Day 0 is the day of last contact with positive case). Alternatively, they can return after day 7 with a negative viral test for SARS-CoV-2. Regardless of the which option is used, it is preferred that a negative viral test for SARS-CoV-2 be obtained within 48 hrs of return to work.
7. If staffing shortages occur, it might not be possible to exclude exposed HCWs from work. For additional information and considerations, refer to [Strategies to Mitigating Healthcare Personnel Staffing Shortages](#). If you need staffing assistance and have exhausted your staffing alternatives, please contact DAIL at AHS.DAILHOPR@vermont.gov and notify the HOPR team AHS.VDHEPICOVID19Program@vermont.gov and AHS.VDHLocalHealthEpiCOVID19@vermont.gov.
8. For this guidance, **up to date with COVID-19 vaccine** is defined as:
 - You are ages 18 or older and have received all recommended vaccine doses, including boosters and additional primary shots for some immunocompromised people.
 - You are ages 5-17 years and completed the primary series of COVID-19 vaccines.
 - You had confirmed COVID-19 within the last 90 days (you tested positive using a viral test).
9. HCWs not up-to-date with COVID vaccine would be recommended for work exclusion and quarantine. HCWs who are up-to-date with COVID vaccine and continue to work during this exposure are recommended serial viral SARS-CoV-2 testing every 2-3 days during the exposure, and on days 2 and day 5-7 after last exposure.
10. Testing recommendations after exposure to SARS-CoV-2 for HCW not requiring exclusion are recommended to include day 2 and day 5-7 after the last exposure (Day 0 is the day of last contact with positive case).