

PA Department of Health

Close Contact Definition

Close Contact: Within 6 feet for 15 consecutive minutes (PA HAN 533)

Additional factors that should be considered when assessing close contacts include:

- Being in extremely close proximity (face to face)
- Having a prolonged exposure time
- The infected person exhibiting symptoms
- The infected person generating respirator aerosols (e.g. coughing, singing, shouting)
- The presence of environmental conditions (e.g. crowding, inadequate ventilation, or being indoors)

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(continued)

CDC guidance adds the following exception to the definition of close contact:

In the K-12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3-6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) if both the infected students and exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time.

This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting. Note: students age 18+ should be considered students, not adults, for purposes of this definition.