

Guidance for evaluation of COVID exposure and isolation need within Inpatient Behavioral Health Settings

As part of a comprehensive effort to prevent the transmission of COVID within Rochester Regional Health facilities, the following guidance provides steps for in-patient Behavioral Health settings to take when there are COVID positive patients and staff are identified.

If a non-isolated patient or staff member in the Behavioral Health unit milieu tests positive for COVID, the following guidance may be applied:

- Try to identify individual exposures (via video or other means) or if unable, consider whole unit exposed. Exposure is defined as being within 6 feet of another person, where one or both persons is unmasked, for more than 15 cumulative minutes.
- Implement the following interventions:

Interventions	Single COVID positive person, Limited Exposures	Single COVID positive person, entire unit considered exposed	Multiple COVID positive patients identified
Testing for COVID (regardless of vaccination)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exposed patients should be tested at day 0 and 3-5 days from last exposure • Immediately test patients who develop symptoms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test entire unit at day 0 and 3-5 days from last exposure • Immediately test any patient if symptoms develop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test entire unit at day 0 and 3-5 days from last exposure • Repeat testing every 3-5 days if positive patients continue to be identified
Isolation of COVID positive patients*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID positive patients must be isolated for a minimum of 10 days (follow discontinuation of COVID isolation guidance) • Patients should be in private room with a door, at minimum • Positive patients may be cohorted together, if necessary 		
Quarantine of exposed patients*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private room or cohort multiple exposed patients • Meals in room • Emphasis on strict masking (can go to group meetings with social distancing) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue with current room assignments • Emphasize strict masking • Social distancing during group meetings • Social distancing during meals or staggered meals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue with current room assignments • Emphasize strict masking • Consider pausing group meetings • Social distancing during meals or staggered meals
Admissions	Continue admissions without restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safest option: pause admissions for 3-5 days and re-test patients to ensure no additional positives • Alternative with IP consultation: continue admissions once initial round of exposure testing completed and no additional cases found; keep patients in separate cohorts (i.e. exposed vs. new admissions) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close to new admissions, unless positive and exposed patients are able to be cohorted separately from new admissions (including meal and bathroom areas) • Admissions can resume: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Safest: Retest 5 days from last round of testing that identified a new positive. Resume admissions if no new positives. ○ Alternative with IP consultation: IP may evaluate risk of resuming admissions.

*For all COVID positive patients or COVID exposed patients: Inpatient RRH guidance should be followed for isolation time and PPE use ([Policy Statement: \(roch https://intranet.rochesterregional.org/sites/Policies/RRHS/Policies/IP27.pdf esterregional.org\)](https://intranet.rochesterregional.org/sites/Policies/RRHS/Policies/IP27.pdf)). RRH COVID policies are based on CDC guidance, which applies more stringent guidance for healthcare settings.

All situations: Exposed staff may report their exposure to Workready and seek testing per Workready guidance. Symptomatic staff should not report to work and should be tested for COVID.