



Chester County Health Department

Coronavirus COVID-19

Field-Based Health Visit Guidance

Updated: November 24, 2020

Goal: COVID-19 screening will be implemented to protect workers conducting visits in the field, and their clients, from COVID-19 exposure.

Scope: All clients who will have an in-person visit in their home or other on-site location will be assessed COVID risk factors and symptoms.

Procedure: The following screening questions must be asked of all individuals by staff scheduling field visits (including existing scheduled appointments/visits) **and** should be completed upon arrival at a client's location:

1. Have you been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past 10 days?
 - a. If yes:
 - i. *Explain:* "With the current coronavirus outbreak, your known risk factors will not allow us to schedule an appointment until you have recovered from COVID."
 - ii. Instruct individual to:
 1. Remain home and monitor their health.
 2. Contact his/her healthcare provider if symptoms worsen.
 3. Reschedule the appointment when
 - a. At least 1 day (24 hours) have passed since fever went away without the use of fever-reducing medication AND
 - b. improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) AND
 - c. At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
 - b. If no, proceed to step 2.
2. In the past 14 days, have you had close contact with someone who is known to have COVID-19? Close contact means you were within 6 feet of that person for 15 minutes or longer.
 - a. If yes:
 - i. *Explain:* "With the current coronavirus outbreak, your risk factors will not allow us schedule an appointment at this time. "
 - ii. Instruct individual to:
 1. Remain home and self-isolate for 14 days from the date of exposure.
 2. Contact his/her healthcare provider and the Health Department if they develop symptoms.
 - iii. Provide individual with "COVID-19 Self-Monitoring at Home" guidance.
 - b. If no, proceed to step 3.
3. Have you traveled outside of PA in the last 14 days, for any reason other than work, healthcare, or to comply with a court order?



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- a. If yes to travel:
 - i. Ask: "Have you received a negative test results from a COVID-19 test done within 72 hours prior to your arrival or after your arrival in PA?"
 - 1. If Yes to test and negative result, proceed to step 4.
 - 2. If no to test OR negative result:
 - a. *Explain:* "With the current coronavirus outbreak, your risk factors will not allow us schedule an appointment at this time. "
 - b. Instruct individual to:
 - i. Remain home and quarantine for 14 days from the date of return to Pennsylvania OR get a COVID-19 diagnostic test and quarantine until they receive the result.
 - ii. Contact his/her healthcare provider or the Health Department if they develop symptoms.
 - b. If no to travel, proceed to step 4.
4. Evaluate if the individual has symptoms of COVID-19.
 - a. Ask the following questions:
 - i. Do you have a fever? **OR** Take temperature with temporal or forehead touchless thermometer.
 - ii. Are you taking any medication to treat or suppress a fever?
 - iii. Are you currently experiencing any of the following symptoms¹?

Group A 1 or more symptoms	Group B 2 or more symptoms ¹	
Cough	Sore throat	Headache
Shortness of breath	Chills	Congestion or runny nose
Difficulty breathing	Muscle pain	Nausea or vomiting
Lack of smell or taste (without congestion)	Fatigue	Diarrhea
	Fever	

¹ For a current list of symptoms see CDC's website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

² The temperature considered a fever during screening differs based on how temperature is taken. Any fever reported, even if no thermometer was used, should be considered as symptomatic.

Mode	Temperature for Fever
Axillary and temporal	99.5°F or higher
Oral	100.0°F or higher



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- b. Determine if the individual has symptoms. "Has Symptoms" is defined as:
 - Having 1 or more symptom(s) in Group A
 - **OR** 2 or more symptoms in Group B
 - **OR** Fever
 - **OR** Yes to medication to suppress a fever.
- c. If the individual has symptoms:
 - i. *Explain:* "With the current coronavirus outbreak, your known risk factors will not allow us to schedule an appointment until you are symptom-free."
 - ii. Instruct individual to:
 1. Consult your healthcare provider to ask about a COVID-19 test.
 - a. If the COVID-19 test is negative, reschedule the appointment when symptom-free for 72 hours.
 - b. If the COVID-19 test is positive, reschedule the appointment when
 - i. At least 1 day (24 hours) have passed since fever went away without the use of fever-reducing medication **AND**
 - ii. Respiratory symptoms are improved (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) **AND**
 - iii. At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
- d. If the individual does not have symptoms, continue with the appointment.
- e. Follow the Chester County Health Department *COVID-19 Personal Protective Measures Guidelines for Field Workers*



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COVID-19 Personal Protective Measures

Guidelines for Field Workers

Updated: August 25, 2020

COVID-19 is an illness caused by a new (“novel”) coronavirus. The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person, between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet), through respiratory droplets usually produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

Entering a location where no one has symptoms:

- Use hand sanitizer or wash your hands before and after the visit.
- Wear a mask, and ensure the client is masked as well. If possible, field worker should wear a surgical mask and the client should wear a cloth mask.
- As much as possible, avoid touching your face and surfaces in the home.
- Maintain a 6-foot distance as much as possible.

Entering a location where someone is known to have COVID-19, or has symptoms such as cough or fever:

- Use hand sanitizer or wash your hands before and after the visit.
- Use personal protective equipment (PPE) including a gown, gloves, face shield or goggles, and face mask (surgical preferred). A respirator (N-95 mask) is not needed for routine contact.
- Ensure the client is wearing a mask. If they do not have one, provide one.
- As much as possible, keep a 6-foot distance from the person.
- Remove PPE properly and use hand sanitizer or wash your hands after the visit.

Training:

- Instructions for putting on and removing PPE: <https://www.cdc.gov/hai/pdfs/ppe/ppe-sequence.pdf>
- Training video for putting on and removing PPE: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=quwzg7Vixsw> Note that you will not need an N-95 respirator, just a surgical mask.