Clinic respiratory confirmation. Because of their close contact can occur while caring for, living with, visiting, or sharing a healthcare waiting area or room with a COVID-19 case or symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, shortness of breath). The Florida Department of Health asks that you immediately notify both infection control personnel at your healthcare facility and your county health department (CHD) [FloridaHealth.gov/CHDEpiContact].

1. Close contact is defined as a) being within approximately 6 feet (2 meters) of a COVID-19 case for a prolonged period; close contact can occur while caring for, living with, visiting, or sharing a healthcare waiting area or room with a COVID-19 case or symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, shortness of breath). If such contact occurs while not wearing recommended personal protective equipment (PPE) (e.g., gowns, gloves, NIOSH-certified disposable N95 respirator, eye protection), criteria for PUI consideration are met. Data to inform the definition of close contact are limited. Considerations when assessing close contact include the duration of exposure (e.g., longer exposure time likely increases exposure risk) and the clinical symptoms of the person with COVID-19 (e.g., coughing likely increases exposure risk as does exposure to a severely ill patient). Special consideration should be given to healthcare personnel exposed in healthcare settings.

2. For healthcare personnel, testing may be considered if there has been exposure to a person with suspected COVID-19 without laboratory confirmation. Because of their often extensive and close contact with vulnerable patients in healthcare settings, even mild signs and symptoms (e.g., sore throat) of COVID-19 should be evaluated among potentially exposed healthcare personnel.

3. Documentation of laboratory-confirmation of COVID-19 may not be possible for travelers or persons caring for patients in other countries.

4. Fever may be subjective or confirmed.

5. Affected areas are defined as geographic regions where sustained community transmission has been identified. For a list of relevant affected areas, see Coronavirus Disease 2019 Information for Travel (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html)