

# REPORTING LINE FOR HEALTH WORKERS WITH SUSPECTED/CONFIRMED COVID-19

Close contact = health professional who assisted a patient confirmed for COVID-19 without PPE or household contact with a person confirmed for COVID-19



SYMPTOMATIC \*

(dry cough, fever, sore throat, headache, shortness of breath, malaise, body aches)



Workers who have recently travelled from or live in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19, are considered at higher risk

**Inform** your **supervisor** and **phone OHS** to alert them before proceeding to the Occupational Health Clinic / ONP/OMP for assessment

**Follow NICD testing, notification and management protocol**

<http://www.nicd.ac.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/COVID-19-Quick-reference-v7-10.03.2020-Final-clean.pdf>  
Advise staff on obtaining counselling from **EAP** while awaiting results

Hospital OHS services (ONP/OMP) submit data to:

OHS coordinators if HWs is based at a district facility submit data to:

**If COVID-19 POSITIVE or NEGATIVE**

CEO OF HOSPITAL

DISTRICT MANAGER

Submit anonymised group data **DIRECTLY** to

PROVINCIAL OHS DIRECTORATE OFFICE  
To provincial OHS coordinator

HEAD OF PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
(Office of the Premier)  
*(ONLY anonymised grouped data)*

NATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
*(ONLY anonymised grouped data)*

**If COVID-19 POSITIVE**

Assess for COIDA submission

OHS team to manage return to work process.

NATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND LABOUR  
Compensation Fund (COIDA adjudication)

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH  
Health Worker Occupational Health Surveillance database

\* Please note if presenting with flu like symptoms that include rhinitis, wet cough – please observe for a few days before contacting the OHS service. Contact OHS only if common COVID-19 symptoms are experienced.



## REPORTING LINE/ FLOW OF INFORMATION FOR HEALTH WORKERS WITH POSSIBLE COVID -19

1. The health worker (HW) should inform their immediate supervisor if they have any of the following:
  - Presents with COVID-19 symptoms
  - Close contact (HW who assisted a patient confirmed for COVID-19 without PPE or household contact with a person confirmed for COVID-19)
  - Travelled from or live in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.
2. Contact their Occupation Health and Safety (OHS) clinic/service telephonically to alert them before proceeding to the OHS clinic/ Occupational Nurse Practitioner (OHP) / Occupational Medical Practitioner (OMP) for assessment.
3. **Follow NICD testing, notification and management protocol.** (<http://www.nicd.ac.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/COVID-19-Quick-reference-v7-10.03.2020-Final-clean.pdf>)
4. Isolate affected HW while awaiting results.
5. In addition, advise staff on obtaining counselling from their **Employee Assistance Programmes (EAP)** while awaiting results and post obtaining the results.
6. If the **HW tests positive** for COVID-19 and an occupational health assessment must be made to determine if it was contracted due to the HWs' occupation. If yes, then submit a claim to compensation fund based on COIDA. After recovery, the OHS team at the HW's facility need to assist the HW with the return to work process.
7. The OHS clinic at a hospital will then submit anonymised data on the HW/HWs to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the hospital daily.

If the HW is based at a district facility, then the OHS coordinators of the district will submit anonymised data on the HW/HWs to the District Manager daily.
8. Both the CEO or the District Manager will submit anonymised group data at predetermined regular intervals (possibly weekly) to the Provincial OHS Coordinator.
9. The anonymised group data is then forwarded to:
  - a. **The Office of the Premier [Provincial Head of the Department of Health (HOD)]**
  - b. **Compensation Fund** at the Department of Employment and Labour where the committee adjudicates compensation claims under COIDA.
  - c. **National Institute for Occupational Health** that houses the **Health Worker Occupational Health Database.** ([info@nioh.ac.za](mailto:info@nioh.ac.za))
10. Provincial HW anonymised data is then submitted to the National Department of Health.

**DATA OBTAINED FROM THIS SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM WILL BE USED TO ENHANCE THE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY OF HEALTH WORKERS NATIONALLY**

For any queries please contact: **NIOH HOTLINE: 0800 2121 75 | [info@nioh.ac.za](mailto:info@nioh.ac.za)**