Essentials of COVID Occupational Health Management

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Thank you!

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- ✓ **Exposure incidents and follow-up**
- ✓ **Symptomatic employees**
- ✓ **Symptom tracking/screening**
- ✓ **High risk populations**
- ✓ **Data tracking and management**

Exposure incident and follow-up

RN on pediatric unit with anosmia x 2 days.
No respiratory symptoms.

- Immediate COVID-19 testing at drive through
- Test results in < 24 hours. COVID-19 +
- Identify health care staff with exposure (> 10 minutes/< 6 feet). If COVID positive: remove from work for 14 days. If COVID negative: allow to work, monitor for symptoms and wear mask.
- Pediatric resident also COVID +, minor respiratory sxs
  – Possible risk of family transmission
- Remove RN and MD from work x 14 days; "non-test" strategy for RTW (14 days since sx onset, > 3 days since fever gone, sxs completely resolved)

Symptomatic employee

ER physician returns from conference in NY (early March) with onset of respiratory symptoms.

- Self-tests COVID-19 +
- Prolonged 3 week viral illness
- Chest x-ray c/w viral pneumonia
- Symptom recovery but persistent COVID-19 +
- Return to work wearing mask
- 4/7 colleagues who attended NY conference COVID-19 +. No known single source.

Symptom tracking/screening
Respiratory therapist with mild sore throat

- Employee calls COVID-19 Hotline with 2 days of symptoms

- COVID-19 swab "indeterminant" (Day 3)

- COVID-19 swab + (Day 5)

- Employee stays home, return to work using non-test strategy

High risk population
Pregnant pediatric intern assigned to NICU

- Pediatric department chair asks for help
- Pregnant pediatrician reluctant to disclose pregnancy
- Risk of COVID-19 in pregnancy discussed
- Alternative work assignment made

Data management and tracking

> 2,000 employees screened at door/day
>100 COVID Hotline calls/day
>50 COVID tests/day
>25 calls/day to OHS

- Seven experienced OHS staff (RN/NP/MD)
- Existing Population Health call center adapted for COVID Hotline
- >15 staff and volunteers added
- New COVID module added to existing OHS software system
  - job title, work location, COVID results, sxs, PPE use

Some key achievements

✓ Dedicated employee screening site

✓ Accessible and rapid testing

✓ Employee symptom screening tool

✓ Mask policy in hospital

✓ Data management and tracking

✓ Information sharing

Shelter in place
March 15, 2020

"Research to OH practice"

✓Timing of COVID testing after symptom onset

✓Interpretation of persistent positives

✓Risk of asymptomatic transmission in hospital setting

  ✓Timing of COVID test after exposure at work or home

  ✓Validity of symptom screening

✓Role for antibody testing