



Iowa Center for Home Care

What to do if an employee tests positive for COVID-19? - 6/09/2020

- 1. Notify DIA by calling 515-242-5202 which is the Complaint Division who will take the information, or you can email Barb Rasmussen at: barbara.rasmussen@dia.iowa.gov**
Follow any guidance the Department gives you. The reporting numbers are on the top of the [IHCA COVID-19 webpage](#).
- 1. Continue to report on-line daily to your Regional Medical Coordination Center.**
- 2. Start monitoring patient(s) daily if they had been exposed to the employee who tested positive.**
Check temperature, pulse and respirations as well as a pulse oximetry at least daily. Watch for slight variations in condition including increased pulse rate, malaise or increased confusion. Isolate immediately any patient that you suspect using contact and droplet precautions.
- 3. Identify staff and patients most at risk for exposure.**
Look at CDC Guidance found in the [IHCA COVID-19 Crisis Response Kit](#) to determine what actions you need to take regarding screening and potential isolation of potentially exposed individuals.
- 4. Immediately start developing communications plans to inform the staff, patients and families. Don't make the mistake of thinking this information should be kept confidential to avoid panic. Word will get out, probably before you even get these plans started or completed. You want to be in front of this story providing correct information and reassuring people of all the measures you are taking to keep everyone involved safe before it hits social or regular media.**
IHC does not yet have guidance from IDPH on which patients and staff you should notify, so when you call IDPH to report please ask for their guidance.
Media – Never agree to a live interview! Use the guidance found in the [IHCA COVID-19 Crisis Response Kit](#) to create written responses.
- 5. Expect a call from DIA within a couple of days of your first report.**
When DIA contact you expect that they will conduct a joint Targeted Infection Control Focused Survey in conjunction with IDPH. Documents to help you prepare are found [here](#).