

HENDERSON BROTHERS UPDATE

CDC Updates Definition of “Close Contact”

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The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has updated its definition of [close contact](#), which will affect contact tracing, employee notifications, return-to-work certifications and other coronavirus (COVID-19) concerns for many employers.

Under the new definition, a close contact is someone who was within six feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period starting from two days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, two days prior to test specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated. Individual exposures are added together over a 24-hour period (for example, three 5-minute exposures would result in a total of 15 minutes' exposure).

Previously, the definition made no mention of cumulative exposure, so close contact was presumed to require 15 minutes of consecutive exposure.

Employers should consider updating social distancing practices and their COVID-19 policies with an eye toward limiting cumulative, as well as consecutive, exposure to co-workers and others. HBI has updated its COVID-19 Policy Guide to reflect this change in definition.

Contact slherrle@hb1893.com or keramicone@hb1893.com for our updated materials.