



# TOWNSHIP OF EDISON

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## Answers to Hotline Questions & Emails

Below is the New Jersey Department of Health's **Frequently Asked Questions** regarding COVID-19

It addresses specifically the 14 day quarantine period and how to deal with the days following.



### Frequently Asked Questions

#### Close Contacts of Confirmed COVID-19 Patients (UPDATED March 19, 2020)

##### *What is COVID-19?*

COVID-19 is a respiratory illness caused by a new virus called SARS-CoV-2. COVID-19 can cause symptoms ranging from mild illness, like common cold symptoms, to more serious illness like pneumonia (lung infection).

##### *I've been told I'm a "close-contact" to someone with confirmed COVID-19. What does that mean?*

If you are identified as a **close contact** to someone with COVID-19, you may have been told this by your healthcare provider, your employer, your local health department or the person themselves. In general, **close contact means being within 6 feet of a person for longer than 10 minutes**. It is currently thought that close contacts of people who have COVID-19 are at higher risk of getting the virus than the general public. **Some examples of close contact include:**

- Living in the same household and sharing common spaces (bathrooms, kitchen, living spaces, etc.) with a sick person with COVID-19
- Caring for a sick person with COVID-19
- Being in direct contact with secretions from a sick person with COVID-19 which could include being coughed on, kissing, sharing utensils, etc.

If you have **not** been a close contact to someone with COVID-19 then you are likely to be at lower risk for infection. However, you should continue to monitor your health for symptoms. If you feel feverish or develop cough or difficulty breathing, you should limit contact with others and seek advice by telephone from a healthcare provider to determine whether medical evaluation is needed.

##### *What are the symptoms of COVID-19?*

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are fever, cough and shortness of breath. Other symptoms may include a runny nose, sore throat, symptoms of upset stomach or generally feeling unwell.

##### *What if I'm a close contact to someone with COVID-19 but I'm not sick and I don't have symptoms?*

**You should stay isolated at home and monitor your health for fever, cough, shortness of breath or other symptoms during the 14 days** after the last day you were in close contact with the sick person with COVID-19. **You should not go to work or school and should avoid public places during this time period.** If the person with COVID-19 lives in your home, **do your best to separate yourself from them** until they are taken off their home isolation instructions. If you cannot separate yourself from them and continue to have close contact then you will need to remain at home and isolated for 14 days after the person with COVID-19 is released from their isolation.

##### *What if I have these symptoms?*

If, **during this 14-day period, you get sick with fever, cough or shortness of breath (even if your symptoms are very mild), you should stay at home and away from other people.** If you feel you need additional medical evaluation or have any of the following conditions that may increase your risk for a