

Information on Covid-19

Wednesday, April 28th, 2021

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the health-related guidance when a work area has proved to be contaminated (confirmed case) or in case of risk of contamination (“contact”)?

The employer, along with the occupational health, must set up an appropriate procedure for taking charge of employees exhibiting symptoms of Covid-19 or employees who have been in contact with someone exhibiting symptoms.

In the event of a proven case, the referent must be able to facilitate the identification of contacts by the authorities in charge of tracing contacts, by producing a matrix based on the declarations of the employee concerned and his or her history of activity in the company.

Due to the acceleration of the epidemic, breaking the chains of the spreading of COVID-19 is more essential than ever.

In this context, the TousAntiCovid application, launched by the Government on October 22nd, 2020, aims to facilitate the provision of information to people who have been in contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 and to speed up their treatment, in addition to the action of doctors and the Assurance Maladie.

In this way, TousAntiCovid completes the arsenal of barrier measures already in place against COVID-19. Its use is particularly useful in places where the concentration of people makes it difficult to respect social distancing.

In the event of a proven case, the referent must be able to facilitate the identification of contacts by the authorities in charge of the tracing contact, by producing a matrix based on the declarations of the employee concerned and his or her history of activity in the company. The use of the TousAntiCovid application can be useful in this respect.

When an employee is exhibiting symptoms, (particularly fever and/or cough, difficulty breathing, speaking, swallowing, loss of smell and taste), the protocol must be as follows:

- Isolation (for at least 7 days, and in case of a positive test result, until further notice from the doctor)
- Arrange to perform a test and watch health condition (respiratory condition)
- Drawing up the list of “contacts”.
- Performing a second test 17 days after the beginning of symptoms

When an employee does not have symptoms, but has been in contact with a person who has had a positive test result for COVID-19, protocol must be as follows:

- Isolation (for at least 7 days)
- Arrange to have a test
- Watch health conditions (temperature measurement)
- Performing a second test 17 days after the beginning of symptoms

What is a “contact”?

A ‘contact’ is a person who, in the absence of effective protective measures for the entire duration of the contact (protective glass, surgical mask or FFP2 worn by the contaminated person AND by the “contact” person) has:

- spent significant time in the same household as a person who has tested positive for COVID-19
- had face-to-face contact within one meter, regardless of the duration with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.
- Provided or received hygiene or care
- shared a confined space (office, personal vehicle) with someone who has tested positive for at least 15 minutes, or, who has had face-to-face contact being coughed on.

After taking charge of the employee, employers must contact the occupational health service and follow its instructions, including for the cleaning of the workplace and the monitoring of employees.

In the event of contamination, the following measures should be taken, as the coronavirus can likely survive for three hours on dry surfaces:

- Equip those in charge of cleaning floors and surfaces with single-use lab coats, cleaning gloves.
- Floor upkeep: opt preferably for a wet washing-disinfection strategy (single-use washing strip soaked in detergent product; rinse using water from drinking water system, using another single-use washing strip; allow adequate drying time; disinfect using a chlorine-based product with a single-use washing strip).
- Waste generated by the contaminated person can be disposed of via the usual method.

Allow employees who has tested positive to take time off work in case they develop symptoms (depending on the physician’s advice) or work from home (suspected contamination or asymptomatic case). If teleworking is not possible, the asymptomatic person or the “contact” may benefit from the short time working mechanism or paid leave of absence. Working patterns will need to be reconsidered and the situation monitored for at least 7 days.

The mere fact that an employee has been contaminated is not enough, subject to the sovereign opinion of the courts, to be construed as reasonable grounds to exercise the right of withdrawal.

For more information, please visit:

[Ministère du travail, protocole sanitaire](#)

[FAQ Coronavirus pour les entreprises et les salariés](#)

[Information Coronavirus](#)

[Ministère du Travail](#)

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