

Exposure Risk Categories

These categories are interim and subject to change.

CDC has established the following exposure risk categories to help guide public health management of people following potential SARS-CoV-2 exposure in jurisdictions that are not experiencing sustained community transmission. These categories may not cover all potential exposure scenarios. They should not replace an individual assessment of risk for the purpose of clinical decision making or individualized public health management.

All exposures apply to the 14 days prior to assessment.

For country-level risk classifications, see [Coronavirus Disease 2019 Information for Travel](#).

CDC has provided separate guidance for [healthcare settings](#).

Table 1. Risk Categories for Exposures Associated with International Travel or Identified during Contact Investigations of Laboratory-confirmed Cases

Risk Level	Geographic (Travel-associated) Exposures*	Exposures Identified through Contact Investigation
High	Travel from Hubei Province, China	Living in the same household as, being an intimate partner of, or providing care in a nonhealthcare setting (such as a home) for a person with symptomatic laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 infection without using recommended precautions for home care and home isolation
Medium (assumes no exposures in the high-risk category)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel from mainland China outside Hubei Province or Iran • Travel from a country with widespread sustained transmission, other than China or Iran • Travel from a country with sustained community transmission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close contact with a person with symptomatic laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 • On an aircraft, being seated within 6 feet (two meters) of a traveler with symptomatic laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 infection; this distance correlates approximately with 2 seats in each direction • Living in the same household as, an intimate partner of, or caring for a person in a nonhealthcare setting (such as a home) to a person with symptomatic laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 infection while consistently using recommended precautions for home care and home isolation
Low (assumes no exposures in the high-risk category)	Travel from any other country	Being in the same indoor environment (e.g., a classroom, a hospital waiting room) as a person with symptomatic laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 for a prolonged period of time but not meeting the definition of close contact
No identifiable risk	Not applicable	Interactions with a person with symptomatic laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 infection that do not meet any of the high-, medium- or low-risk conditions above, such as walking by the person or being briefly in the same room.

*In general, geographic exposure categories do not apply to travelers who only transit through an airport.