Essentials of COVID Occupational Health Management

Robert Harrison, MD, MPH
University of California, San Francisco
Robert.harrison@ucsf.edu
415 717 1601
Thank you!

Diana Alloco
Patricia Bertlow
Vanessa Dempsey
Grace Domingo
Susan Dowd
Aric Juarez
Robert Kosnik
Edwin Lager
Cindy Lorentz
Olga Luzato
Cathy O’Connor
Jane Pun
Carol Rabanes-Lee
Joy Sabig
Cindy Swickard
Exposure incidents and follow-up
Symptomatic employees
Symptom tracking/screening
High risk populations
Data tracking and management
Exposure incident and follow-up

RN on pediatric unit with anosmia x 2 days. No respiratory symptoms.

- Immediate COVID-19 testing at drive through
- Test results in < 24 hours. COVID-19 +
- Identify health care staff with exposure (> 10 minutes/< 6 feet). If COVID positive: remove from work for 14 days. If COVID negative: allow to work, monitor for symptoms and wear mask.
- Pediatric resident also COVID +, minor respiratory sxs
  - Possible risk of family transmission
- Remove RN and MD from work x 14 days; “non-test” strategy for RTW (14 days since sx onset, > 3 days since fever gone, sxs completely resolved)
Symptomatic employee

ER physician returns from conference in NY (early March) with onset of respiratory symptoms.

- Self-tests COVID-19 +
- Prolonged 3 week viral illness
- Chest x-ray c/w viral pneumonia
- Symptom recovery but persistent COVID-19 +
- Return to work wearing mask
- 4/7 colleagues who attended NY conference COVID-19 +. No known single source.
Symptom tracking/screening

Respiratory therapist with mild sore throat

- Employee calls COVID-19 Hotline with 2 days of symptoms
- COVID-19 swab “indeterminant” (Day 3)
- COVID-19 swab + (Day 5)
- Employee stays home, return to work using non-test strategy
High risk population

Pregnant pediatric intern assigned to NICU

- Pediatric department chair asks for help
- Pregnant pediatrician reluctant to disclose pregnancy
- Risk of COVID-19 in pregnancy discussed
- Alternative work assignment made
Data management and tracking

> 2,000 employees screened at door/day
> 100 COVID Hotline calls/day
> 50 COVID tests/day
> 25 calls/day to OHS

• Seven experienced OHS staff (RN/NP/MD)
• Existing Population Health call center adapted for COVID Hotline
• >15 staff and volunteers added
• New COVID module added to existing OHS software system
  – job title, work location, COVID results, sxs, PPE use
Some key achievements

- Dedicated employee screening site
- Accessible and rapid testing
- Employee symptom screening tool
- Mask policy in hospital
- Data management and tracking
- Information sharing

Shelter in place
March 15, 2020
“Research to OH practice”

✓ Timing of COVID testing after symptom onset
✓ Interpretation of persistent positives
✓ Risk of asymptomatic transmission in hospital setting
  ✓ Timing of COVID test after exposure at work or home
  ✓ Validity of symptom screening
✓ Role for antibody testing