

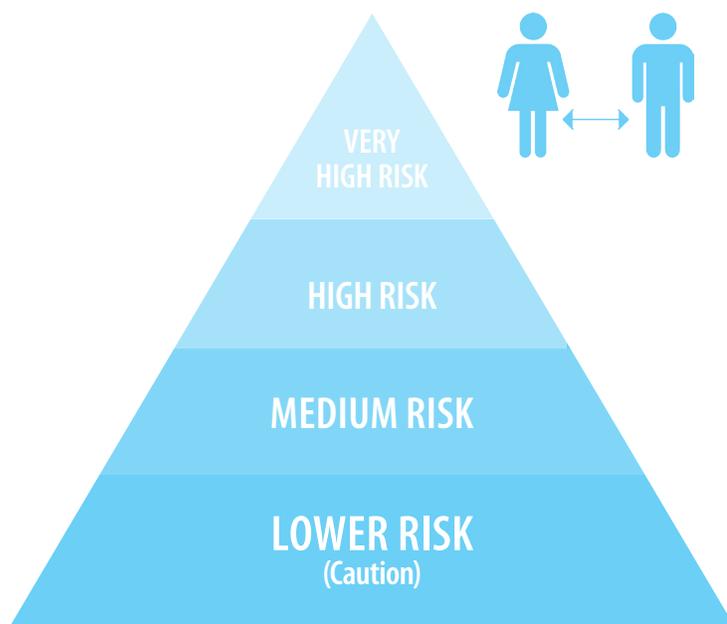
# COVID-19 guidance

Saginaw County



HEALTH DEPARTMENT

## Classifying Risk of Worker Exposure to SARS-CoV-2



Worker risk of occupational exposure to SARS-CoV-2 during a pandemic may depend in part on the industry type and the need for contact within 6 feet of people known to be, or suspected of being, infected with SARS-CoV-2. Other factors, such as conditions in communities where employees live and work, their activities outside of work (including travel to COVID-19-affected areas), and individual health conditions, may also affect workers' risk of getting COVID-19 and/or developing complications from the illness.

**OSHA has divided job tasks into four risk exposure levels: very high, high, medium, and lower risk**, as shown in the occupational risk pyramid. The four exposure risk levels represent the probable distribution of risk. Most American workers will likely fall in the lower exposure risk (caution) or medium exposure risk levels.

**PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PLAN TEMPLATES are available by risk level at:**  
[www.saginawpublichealth.org/coronavirus/information-for-businesses-and-employers](http://www.saginawpublichealth.org/coronavirus/information-for-businesses-and-employers)

### Lower Exposure Risk (Caution)

Jobs that do not require contact with people known to be, or suspected of being, infected with SARS-CoV-2. Workers in this category have minimal occupational contact with the public and other coworkers. Examples include:

- Remote workers (i.e., those working from home during the pandemic).
- Office workers who do not have frequent close contact with coworkers, customers, or the public.
- Manufacturing and industrial facility workers who do not have frequent close contact with coworkers, customers, or the public.
- Healthcare workers providing only telemedicine services.
- Long-distance truck drivers.

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## Medium Exposure Risk

Jobs that require frequent/close contact with people who may be infected, but who are not known to have or suspected of having COVID-19. Workers in this category include:

- Those who may have frequent contact with travelers who return from international locations with widespread COVID-19 transmission.
- Those who may have contact with the general public (e.g., in schools, high population density work environments, and some high-volume retail settings).

## High Exposure Risk

Jobs with a high potential for exposure to known or suspected sources of SARS-CoV-2. Workers in this category include:

- Healthcare delivery and support staff (hospital staff who must enter patients' rooms) exposed to known or suspected COVID-19 patients.
- Medical transport workers (ambulance vehicle operators) moving known or suspected COVID-19 patients in enclosed vehicles.
- Mortuary workers involved in preparing bodies for burial or cremation of people known to have, or suspected of having, COVID-19 at the time of death.

## Very High Exposure Risk

Jobs with a very high potential for exposure to known or suspected sources of SARS-CoV-2 during specific medical, postmortem, or laboratory procedures. Workers in this category include:

- Healthcare workers (e.g., doctors, nurses, dentists, paramedics, emergency medical technicians) performing aerosol-generating procedures (e.g., intubation, cough induction procedures, bronchoscopies, some dental procedures and exams, or invasive specimen collection) on known or suspected COVID-19 patients.
- Healthcare or laboratory personnel collecting or handling specimens from known or suspected

COVID-19 patients (e.g., manipulating cultures from known or suspected COVID-19 patients).

- Morgue workers performing autopsies, which generally involve aerosol-generating procedures, on the bodies of people who are known to have, or are suspected of having, COVID-19 at the time of their death.

## Job Duties Affect Workers' Exposure Risk Levels

As workers' job duties change or they perform different tasks in the course of their duties, they may move from one exposure risk level to another. Additional examples of workers who may have increased risk of exposure to SARS-CoV-2 include those in:

- Other types of healthcare positions (including pre-hospital and medical transport workers, allied medical care professionals, and support staff)
- Emergency response (e.g., emergency medical services workers, firefighters, and law enforcement officers)
- Other postmortem care positions (e.g., funeral directors)
- Research or production laboratory workers
- Airline operations
- Retail operations, particularly those in critical and/or high-customer-volume environments
- Border protection and transportation security
- Construction
- Correctional facility operations
- Solid waste and wastewater management
- Environmental (i.e., janitorial) services
- In-home repair services
- Travel to areas where the virus is spreading
- Pastoral, social, or public health workers in jobs requiring contact with community members who may spread the virus
- Transit and delivery drivers, depending on their degree of close contacts with the public