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Changes to Infection Control Exposure Investigations

12/30/21

Due to the surge in cases, the crisis staffing that the IC department is experiencing, the protective measures we have in place for both patients and staff and our low COVID conversion rate from exposures, RIDOH has agreed that it is safe for the IC department to suspend patient exposure investigations. Exposure investigations were also safely suspended during the second COVID wave. This is to ensure that the IC department resources are focused on preventing future exposures rather than investigating past occurrences.

- This means that the IC department will not review potential roommate exposures or flag roommates of newly positive COVID patients as exposed.
- IC will also not manage or assign flags to patients admitted with community exposures. IC recommends that patients are placed on Contact & Droplet precautions by the clinical team, but the patient will not be flagged as Exposed to COVID. The clinical team should follow RIDOH's testing and quarantine recommendations for COVID exposures. This guidance can also be found in the [COVID-19 Isolation Practices and Testing](#) document.
- This change in exposure investigations applies to non-BHU and non-communal settings only.
- IC will also continue to investigate employee and patient clusters.

We all need to ensure that we are vigilant with our protective measures such as proper air scrubber use, use of PPE including eye protection, patient screening, prompt identification and isolation of PUIs and serial testing.