

# Classifying Worker Exposure to COVID-19

Occupational Risk Pyramid  
for COVID-19



OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

## Very High Exposure Risk

*Very high exposure risk* jobs are those with high potential for **exposure to known or suspected sources of COVID-19** during specific medical, postmortem, or laboratory procedures:

- Healthcare workers working with known or suspected COVID-19 patients.
- Laboratory personnel collecting or handling specimens from known or suspected COVID-19 patients.
- Morgue workers performing autopsies of people who are known to have, or suspected of having, COVID-19 at the time of their death.

## High Exposure Risk

*High exposure risk* jobs are those with high potential for **exposure to known or suspected sources of COVID-19**:

- Healthcare delivery and support staff
- Medical transport workers
- Mortuary workers

## Medium Exposure Risk

*Medium exposure risk* jobs include those that require frequent and/or close contact with (i.e., within 6 feet of) people who may be infected with SARS-CoV-2, **but who are not known or suspected COVID-19 patients**. In areas where there is ongoing community transmission, workers in this category may have contact with the general public (e.g., in schools, high-population-density work environments, and some high-volume retail settings).

## Low Exposure Risk

*Lower exposure risk (caution)* jobs are those that **do not require contact** with people known to be, or suspected of being, infected with SARS-CoV-2 **nor frequent close contact with (i.e., within 6 feet of) the general public**.