Phase 2 | High-contact critical workers: identifying characteristics and working definition

Workers providing critical services who are at a higher risk of being infected, because their jobs require consistent and close contact with a large number of individuals

### Definition

- Critical workers are those necessary to maintain systems, assets and activities that are vital to the state (or national) security, the economy, or public health, as defined by the [Department of Homeland Security](https://www.dhs.gov)
- Risk is associated with the likelihood of infecting oneself or spreading COVID. Factors that increase risk include proximity, type of contact, duration of contacts and challenges to implement protective measures
- Settings that provide a critical service and have recorded high transmission rates or become clusters in the past are usually high risk;

### Description

- Firefighters, police officers, first responders, correction officers
- Grocery store workers and food services
- K-12 and childcare workers, including teachers, custodians, drivers and other staff
- Food processing, including meat processing plants
- Large-scale aviation manufacturing plants
- Transportation workers
- Workers in the following industries, if they regularly need to be in high-risk settings to perform their duties:
  - Retail, warehouses and sales outlets
  - Agriculture
  - Supply of critical services or materials for the COVID response (e.g. PPE)
  - The U.S. Postal Service
  - Department of Motor Vehicles

1- As defined by the [Department of Homeland Security](https://www.dhs.gov)
Phase 2 | Congregate settings: identifying characteristics and working definition

**Definition**

Anyone living or working in licensed congregate settings and other special care or congregate environments

- Licensed congregate settings are facilities licensed by the state or local government, that provide housing or care arrangements and where social distancing is not possible; they provide a form of social service or healthcare (or healthcare-associated) service
- Settings included in this phase are monitored by the state or the local government, or house vulnerable populations under care, e.g. in-home care and retirement facilities
- Risk is increased because of:
  - Proximity, i.e., residents and staff are less than 6ft away from one another
  - Type of contact, i.e., exposure to droplets, shared surfaces, common items
  - Duration, i.e., average interactions last more than 10 min
  - Potentially high number of contacts and, sometimes, difficulties to implement protective measures

**Description**

- Homeless shelters and other homeless housing settings and dwelling places
- Congregate childcare institutions, adult and child protective services
- Emergency shelters or safe houses for victims of domestic violence
- Corrections facilities, including jails and juvenile justice facilities
- Behavioral Health institutions (including mental health institutions) and residential treatment centers
- Adult care homes, residents and staff in home plus facilities not covered in phase 1
- Senior living homes
- Home care givers (paid or unpaid), personal care aides

**Examples of groups included**