

COVID-19 case and close contact requirements

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Positive COVID-19 case

A COVID-19 case is a person who has tested positive on a rapid antigen test (RAT) and notified the Department of Health or received an SMS to say they have received a positive PCR test result.



Close contact

A close contact is a person who lives with or stays overnight in the same premises, or has spent more than 4 hours in a residential setting (over a 24-hour period), with a confirmed case during their infectious period*. This is primarily household and household-like contacts.



Isolation or close contact requirements

Isolate in a suitable premises - home or private accommodation
Isolate for 5 days from your positive test date, unless you are a resident or in-patient in a high risk residential setting then you will need to isolate for 7 days.
The day you had your test is day 0.



Notification requirements

If you received your positive result via a RAT, you must notify Public Health of your result via the coronavirus website. PCR test results are already recorded with Public Health, so you do not need to notify a positive PCR test.
You must notify your close contacts, social contacts and workplace / education setting to let them know that you have COVID-19.



Testing requirements

No further testing requirements unless directed to by Public Health.



People living in the same house

If people are in the same house as a confirmed case, they become close contacts and are required to close contact rules including testing.



Leaving isolation or close contact period

You can leave isolation if you meet the following two criteria:

- respiratory symptoms (cough, runny nose, sore throat, or shortness of breath) have gone, or have significantly resolved **AND**
- you have not had a fever (or signs of fever such as chills or night sweats) for at least 24 hours.

You must:

- wear a face mask in **all settings** away from the home until 7 days after testing positive (everyone aged 12 years and older).
- avoid going into high risk premises for a further 2 days.

Follow close contact requirements for 7 days from your last exposure to the case. You can leave home so long as you do not have symptoms and you:

- test when you find out and again on day six, and test each day you leave your home
- notify your workplace
- wear a face mask indoors when outside your home
- do not attend high risk settings, such as hospitals and aged care unless you require urgent care, or are there as part of your employment.

If you are a close contact, you do not need to notify Public Health unless you test positive and become a confirmed case.

Test immediately and on day 6.
If you test negative and have no symptoms, test daily when you leave home.
Take a RAT, or if you are not able to use or access a RAT, get a PCR test.

Monitor for symptoms. Get tested if you develop symptoms. Take a RAT or get a PCR test.
You must isolate while waiting for your test results.

Rules apply for 7 days following the day the initial COVID-19 case in your household tested positive for COVID-19 **OR** 7 days from the last exposure to the case. Day 0 is the test day or the last exposure day.

*The infectious period of a confirmed case is two days prior to developing symptoms or two days prior to when they tested positive if they did not have symptoms.