

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 at least 7 days from when you had your test taken.
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 7 days after date of positive test if you meet the following two criteria:

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

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.