



Quick guide to Public Health advice for cases and contacts for non-variant of concern

*For Public Health guidance on variant of concern please see [here](#)

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Situation	Advice	
<p>1. Self-isolation/restriction of movement</p>	<p>Confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19</p> <p>Self-isolate for 10 days from onset of symptoms (or from date of test if asymptomatic) with last 5 days fever free.</p> <p>Exceptions: hospitalised case or resident of RCF: isolate for 14 days, with last 5 days fever-free.</p>	<p>Close contact(s) of case</p> <p>Advice for close contacts vary depending on a number of factors such as: previous infection, vaccination status, and whether the contact(s) have been exposed to a confirmed case who has travelled from a designated state.</p> <p>For close contacts who are vaccinated, please see here for further information</p> <p>For close contacts who are unvaccinated, please restrict movements (RM) for 14 days; test at day 0 and day 10; exit RM if day 10 test is 'not detected'.</p> <p>Exceptions: Resident of congregated setting: no exit from RM until 14 days.</p> <p>HSE HCW cannot return to healthcare facility for 14 days¹.</p> <p>Extended contact in household where a case or a child cannot self-isolate (ongoing exposure): RM for 17 days from date of onset in case.</p>
<p>2. Immunity</p> <p>HIQA evidence summary – 'Duration of immunity (protection from reinfection) following SARS-CoV-2 infection' and HPSC guidance (here)</p>	<p>If previous positive result was less than 9 months ago and asymptomatic: no RM and no testing required.</p>	

a) Prior confirmed case-now known contact		<p>If more than 9 months ago and asymptomatic: RM and test as for other contacts.</p> <p>Any close contact who develops symptoms, self-isolate and test for SARS-CoV-2 and other respiratory viruses. This includes individuals who have had COVID-19 within the past 9 months.</p>
b) Positive PCR result, in an asymptomatic person, within 9 months of previous PCR positive*	Remnant RNA-not relevant.	
c) Positive PCR result, in a symptomatic person, within 9 months of previous PCR positive	Requires assessment to determine if new infection or remnant RNA or other respiratory virus (CT values etc).	
d) Positive PCR result after 9 months	Manage as a new infection.	
e) Positive Ag test >2 weeks following previous PCR or Ag positive*	Assume new infection**	

*Re-testing of an **asymptomatic** person should be avoided within 9 months of a previous positive result

**A positive Rapid Antigen Detected Test (RADT) in someone > 2weeks post COVID-19 infection could be a false positive result

Situation	Advice
<p>3. Testing prior to RCF admission:</p> <p>a) From acute hospital (no suspicion of COVID-19 and was not admitted to COVID-19 ward)</p> <p>b) From community (no suspicion of COVID-19)</p>	<p>If suspicion of COVID-19 or close contact of a case of COVID-19 please follow advice for RCFs in point 1.</p> <p>Test within 3 days before planned admission, and may consider test at day 5-7. RM for 14 days.</p> <p>Test within 3 days before planned admission. RM for 14 days.</p>
<p>4. International Travel</p> <p>a) All international travellers arriving from non-designated states to Ireland</p>	<p>The government advises against all non-essential international travel.</p> <p>Must complete a COVID-19 Passenger Locator Form</p> <p>Must provide evidence of a negative or ‘not detected’ result from a COVID-19 RT-PCR test carried out no more than 72 hours before arrival into Ireland, or have evidence of exemption from this legal requirement.</p> <p>Must RM for 14 days.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Option of early exit from RM if a day 5 test result is reported as “not detected”. <p>Exemptions: Northern Ireland is the only country exempt from these requirements. There are also certain situations where exemptions apply for an individual.</p> <p>One particular exemption is HCWs transferring patients internationally with full PPE throughout journey. Controlled travel via air force and ambulance services for full journey. If no known close contact/breach of PPE no additional restrictions apply.</p>

¹Public Health position paper agreed at INOH 16/2/21