



# COVID-19 Management of contacts\* of cases in the school setting



\*If contact is an adult, including teachers, please refer to [adult close contact protocols](#) and information on [restricted movement](#)

## A Public Health Risk Assessment should be applied to ascertain level of exposure and necessary restrictions

This algorithm is for contact tracing of confirmed cases, however if a child is sent for a test (suspected case) the **whole house should restrict movements until the result is known**. Children or teachers in the child's pod in school/childcare facility generally do not need to restrict movements unless the index child tests positive for COVID-19 or unless it is deemed necessary by Public Health Risk Assessment.

Confirmed index case: Child (3 months—13<sup>th</sup> birthday)

Confirmed index case: Child 13 years or older

Confirmed index case: Adult

Contact:  
Child 3 months—13<sup>th</sup> birthday

Contact:  
Child 13 years or older

Contact:  
Child (primary or  
secondary school age)

Household setting<sup>1</sup>:  
Contact with person of  
any age in the household

School/childcare setting:  
Pod=facility cohorting arrangement

Pod

Non-Pod

School/childcare setting:  
Due to the different networks of  
secondary school children, a Public  
Health Risk Assessment should ascertain  
the level of exposure in a school setting

Household setting<sup>1</sup>:  
Contact with person of  
any age in the household

School/childcare  
setting<sup>2</sup>

Close contact

Close contact

Casual contact<sup>3</sup>

All contacts should follow procedures  
for casual contacts until Public Health  
Risk Assessment has been performed<sup>4</sup>

Close contact

Test for COVID-19 and restrict movement

Casual contact actions: Attendance at school can continue with monitoring for symptoms a priority and appropriate IPC restrictions maintained

Close contacts should be tested twice, on day 0 and day 10 from their last day of exposure. The period of restricted movement can be ended after a 'not detected' result from the test carried out on day 10, so long as they remain asymptomatic. If the child with COVID-19 can't be isolated at home and there is an **ongoing exposure risk**, household contacts should restrict movements for **17 days** from the onset of index case symptoms (or date of test is asymptomatic). Note: contacts of contacts do not need to restrict movements.

If deemed close contact by Public Health Risk Assessment e.g. if physical distancing could not be adhered to, or face coverings not worn when indicated

If all appropriate measures were taken by the index adult, then no additional restrictions apply for any person who is not classified as a close contact

1. A Public Health Risk Assessment should be undertaken for complex cases, such as, households that cannot adhere to self-isolation measures.
2. A Public Health Risk Assessment should be used to determine if physical distancing and IPC measures were maintained in school/childcare setting with adult index case.
3. Unless a Public Health Risk Assessment indicates a more significant exposure, warranting "close contact" restrictions for children outside of Pod arrangements, for example, close friendship networks, school activities.
4. A Risk Assessment conducted by **Public Health** is required to ascertain the level of exposure in these situations and some contacts may be classified as close contacts following Public Health Risk Assessment.