



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](#)

V1.9. 26/11/2021

Situation	Advice	
<p>1. Self-isolation/restriction of movement</p>	<p>Confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19</p> <p><i>Confirmed case</i> Self-isolate for 10 full days from onset of symptoms (or from date of test if asymptomatic) with last 5 days fever free, even if fully vaccinated.</p> <p><i>Suspected case</i> Self-isolate when symptomatic, even if fully vaccinated until test result return.</p> <p>For period of self-isolation for hospitalised case or resident of RCF, please see here</p>	<p>Close contact(s) of case</p> <p>Advice for close contacts will 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 children who are aged >3 months to under 13 years, 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>Asymptomatic fully vaccinated household contacts¹ of a confirmed case must restrict their movements for five days from the date they are informed they are a household contact. The household contacts will receive antigen tests that should be performed as soon they receive the tests and repeated every second day until three antigen tests have been performed. Household contacts can exit restriction of movement after five days (day six) even if</p>

¹ Household contacts are people living or sleeping in the same house, people in shared living spaces who share a kitchen or bathroom, and sexual partner

		<p>they have not yet completed all three antigen tests provided they have no symptoms of COVID-19. It is important that household contacts complete all three antigen tests even after restricted movement has ended. If the result of any antigen test is positive, the household contacts must self-isolate and book a RT-PCR test. It is important to note that if the household contacts develop COVID-19 symptoms at any time regardless of a negative antigen test result they should self-isolate immediately and book a RT-PCR test. This does not apply to household contacts who have had confirmed COVID-19 infection in the past nine months. Asymptomatic fully vaccinated healthcare workers identified as household contacts also be required to follow this advice unless otherwise directed by their line manager. Please see here for further Occupational Health guidance.</p> <p>Asymptomatic close contacts who are fully vaccinated will receive a Rapid Antigen Detection Test (RADT) and will be requested to self-administer one antigen test as soon they get the test and repeat every second day until three antigen tests have been performed. Please see section 5.3.2 of 'National Guidelines for Public Health Management of contacts of cases of COVID-19' for further information as RADTs are not recommended for all asymptomatic close contacts.</p> <p>Please see here for advice for those who are close contacts in congregated settings.</p> <p>Advice for healthcare workers can be found here.</p>
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		<p>Extended contact in household where a case or a child cannot self-isolate (ongoing exposure) and the household contacts are not fully vaccinated: RM for 17 days from date of onset in case. This is regardless of whether further cases are identified in the household.</p>
<p>2. Immunity HIQA evidence summary – ‘Duration of immunity (protection from reinfection) following SARS-CoV-2 infection’ and HPSC guidance (here)</p> <p>a) Prior confirmed case-now known contact</p>		<p>If previous positive result was less than 9 months ago and asymptomatic: no RM and no testing required.</p> <p>If previous positive result was more than 9 months ago, asymptomatic and not fully vaccinated: RM and book RT-PCR test.</p> <p>If previous positive result was more than 9 months ago, asymptomatic and fully vaccinated: Close contact will receive an RADT for self-administration. Please see here for further information.</p> <p>If previous positive result was more than 9 months ago, asymptomatic, fully vaccinated household contact: Household contact must restrict movements for five days and will receive three RADTs for self-administration that should be performed as soon they receive the tests and repeated every second day until three antigen tests have been performed. Please see here for further information.</p> <p>Any close contact (vaccinated or not vaccinated) 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
3. Testing prior to RCF admission from acute hospitals/community:	<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>The requirement for testing before transfer or admission does not usually apply to people who are fully vaccinated or who have had COVID-19 in the previous 9 months. However, it may be required in some instances based on risk assessment. Please see appendix H, admissions, discharges and transfers to and from RCF in Public Health & Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines on the Prevention and Management of Cases and Outbreaks of COVID-19, Influenza & other Respiratory Infections in Residential Care Facilities</p>

4. International Travel

All international travellers arriving to Ireland

Must complete a [COVID-19 Passenger Locator Form](#)

As of the 8th September 2021, a decision has been taken to **cease routine contact tracing** of infectious cases notified during air travel.

Flight contact tracing **will occur where indicated by Departments of Public Health/MOH risk assessment**. This risk assessment can include –

- More than ten unrelated COVID-19 confirmed cases on a flight (i.e. not travelling as a family/group)
- Confirmation of one or more non-prevalent VOC/VOI
- Public Health concern (i.e. number of cases/exposure of highly vulnerable groups/high symptom burden or poor outcome of passengers)