



Guidance on the management of weak positive (high Ct value) PCR results in asymptomatic individuals who have NOT had a diagnosis of COVID-19 in the previous 6 months



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Has the person had symptoms compatible with COVID-19 in the 10 days prior to the test or developed relevant symptoms since the test was done or has the person been identified as a close contact of a case of COVID 19 with last contact <14 days ago?

No

Yes

Treat as an infectious case

- A positive test at any Ct value is clinically significant
- Unless written assessment stating otherwise available from senior medical practitioner
- Notify case

Are Ct results available?

No

Yes

Treat as an infectious case

- Notify case

Is the person in a hospital or residential setting?

Yes

No

Manage the individual as an infectious case (implement transmission based precautions (TBP) and contact tracing) pending further evaluation**.

If CT value is high*, advise person to self-isolate but notification and initiation of contact tracing may await the outcome of further evaluation** or change in clinical condition. If unable to evaluate further, treat as infectious case and start contact tracing immediately.

**Further evaluation - A repeat sample should be taken on the 2nd day after the initial sample using the same platform.

1) If Ct value remains HIGH/viral load remains low on repeat testing -consider individual non-infectious-stop TBP and contact tracing, individual need not self- isolate

(2) If Ct value falls below high range/viral load has increased on the repeat sample-consider individual as -recent onset, infectious case

(3) If Ct value has fallen significantly but remains in HIGH range/increase in viral load-a further sample should be taken 1-2 days later and instruct the individual to contact their doctor

Patient to contact doctor (or dedicated phone number in service where they work if a HCW) immediately if they develop new relevant symptoms at any time during the period of further evaluation

*A Ct value of greater than or equal to 30 is indicative of a HIGH Ct value but the director of the laboratory should make their own determination based on their own experience with the platform they are using.