

Answers to frequently asked questions about coronavirus cases and close contacts

1. What is a coronavirus case?

A coronavirus case is an individual who has a positive result in a coronavirus diagnostic test (molecular test-PCR or rapid antigen test).

2. What should I do if I am confirmed as a positive case by a coronavirus test?

When we are informed of a positive result from a diagnostic test, we must **immediately self-isolate** and **expect to be contacted by the Tracing Team** of the Ministry of Health. We must also **inform our Personal Doctor**, who is responsible for monitoring the health of his/ her patients/beneficiaries on a regular basis.

The virus-positive individual is not allowed to leave the house and visit other places. It is noted that the virus-positive individual is **prohibited from going to the rapid testing units**. Ideally, the individual **should live alone in the house and his/her space** or, if this is not possible, he/she should self-isolate in a room of the house, which will not be used by the other members of the household. The room in which the virus-positive individual stays **must be well ventilated**.

At the same time, **we must make a record of the individuals with whom we had close contact and inform them, so that they can self-isolate immediately.**

3. For how many days should I remain self-isolated if I am a coronavirus case?

Coronavirus cases remain **self-isolated for a period of 14 days from the onset of symptoms** or, in the case of an asymptomatic individual, **from the day of the testing**. In the case of an **individual showing symptoms at any stage of the 14 days, he/she must inform his/her Personal Doctor** with whom he/she must maintain frequent telephone communication.

4. How can I be discharged from self-isolation if I am a positive case?

For the discharge of the positive case, the responsibility lies with the **Personal Doctor** on the basis of a protocol notified to the doctors by the Epidemiological Monitoring Unit.

Individuals who do not have a Personal Doctor are discharged by the Discharge Team of the Ministry of Health.

In both cases, upon discharge, **all positive cases receive a text message indicating the day of discharge**. Sick leave is given by the Personal Doctor.

5. When am I considered a close contact?

A close contact is the individual who, inter alia:

- **Lives** with a confirmed positive case.
- Has **direct physical contact** with a confirmed positive case (e.g. handshake).
- Has **face-to-face contact** with a confirmed COVID-19 case **at a distance of less than 2 metres for more than 15 minutes**.

- Has met with a coronavirus positive case **in an enclosed space** (e.g. classroom, cinema, hospital waiting area, etc.) **at a distance of less than 2 meters for more than 15 minutes.**

6. Who will inform me that I am a close contact of a confirmed positive case?

When an individual is diagnosed positive for the virus, he/she must inform all individuals with whom he/she has had close contact (see answer to question 5) **48 hours before the onset of symptoms or before the testing** which determined the positive result. At the same time, the coronavirus case must record the contact details of his/her close contacts, and send them electronically to the Tracing Team.

7. What should I do if I am a close contact of a confirmed positive case?

Once an individual is informed that he/she is a close contact of a confirmed positive case, he/she must **self-isolate at his/her home or at a separate space from the other members of his/her household.** Close contacts are **prohibited from leaving the house or visit other places.** Under no circumstances is the close contact allowed to go to the rapid testing units.

8. For how many days should a close contact self-isolate?

Close contacts remain in **mandatory self-isolation for 14 days from their last contact** with the positive case regardless of the result of the laboratory test. The day of contact with the positive case is defined as day "0".

Close contacts are subjected to a **molecular test (PCR test) after the arrangement of an appointment by the Public Health Medical Centres** and, at the same time, close contacts receive [instructions](#) for self-isolation via a text message. Close contacts can be discharged **earlier than 14 days ONLY if they undergo, at their own expense, a molecular test (PCR test) in an approved private clinical laboratory on the 7th day of their self-isolation**, and provided that the result is negative. It is emphasized that the result of rapid antigen test is not accepted.

If an individual who is considered to be a close contact **shows symptoms** at any time during self-isolation, he/she **must immediately contact and inform his/her Personal Doctor that he/she is a close contact of a positive case.**

9. In which cases am I exempt from self-isolation if I am a close contact of a positive case?

An individual is exempt from the mandatory self-isolation if he/she is assessed as a close contact in the following cases:

- Individuals who **have completed their vaccination with any of the available licensed vaccines.** A necessary prerequisite is that **14 days must elapse since the administration of the last dose** of the vaccine.
- Individuals who have been **discharged as positive cases within 6 months.**
