



ΚΥΠΡΙΑΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ
ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΥΓΕΙΑΣ

ΙΑΤΡΙΚΕΣ ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΕΣ ΚΑΙ
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Instructions for close contacts of COVID-19 positive cases

The person evaluated as a close contact of a confirmed case is considered to be a suspected case and will have to follow the instructions given by the Ministry of health. Compliance with measures of personal protection and distancing is required for breaking the chain of transmission, as after a close contact with a confirmed case, a person can transmit the SARS-CoV-2 virus to their environment.

Close contacts are determined as follows:

- a) A person living together with a confirmed positive case
- b) A person who had direct physical contact with a confirmed positive case (e.g. handshake, game)
- c) A person who had unprotected contact with infectious secretions of a confirmed positive case
- d) A person who had face to face contact with a confirmed positive case at a distance of less than 2 metres and for a duration of more than 15 minutes within the period of 2 days before the onset symptom date or the date of the positive test's sampling (whichever comes first)
- e) A person who was in an enclosed space (e.g. classroom, cinema, hospital waiting rooms, vehicle etc.) with a confirmed positive case for more than 15 minutes and at a distance of less than 2 metres within the period of 2 days before the onset symptom date or the date of the positive test's sampling (whichever comes first)
- f) A healthcare professional or other person who provided healthcare to a positive COVID-19 case, or laboratory personnel who handled a sample of a confirmed positive case without using appropriate protective equipment or if there was a breach in its integrity
- g) A fellow traveller on an aircraft/bus sitting up to two rows (in each direction) from a confirmed case, persons travelling together or caring for a patient, crewmembers who served the part of the plane where the patient was seated (possibly all the passengers in the same part of the plane and even all passengers on the flight can be considered as close contacts, if there is more extensive exposure, due to the patient's serious symptoms and his/her movement on board the aircraft)



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Isolation of COVID-19 contacts and testing protocols:

From May 15, 2022 the isolation is not mandatory for all contacts regardless of vaccination status or recent infection. Nevertheless, is recommended for all contacts to test for COVID19 on days 3 and 5 from contact with a positive case. The testing on days 3 and 5 is obligatory for contacts that are not vaccinated, or vaccinated before 7 months or more, or with no recent infection.

For all the above categories of close contacts, it is noted that once onset of symptoms consistent with COVID-19 is observed, they should contact their Personal Doctor for evaluation and their PD will schedule free PCR testing.

Important notes:

1. A close contact in the workplace is reported by the Safety and Health Officer of the business.
2. Close contact in school units is defined by a relevant bulletin by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports and Youth and it is the responsibility of the school Administration to report close contacts.
3. The scheduling for free rapid test on the 3rd and 5th day of the contact is done by the Ministry of Health, and the person reported as “close contact” is notified by text message (sms) of the place of sampling, at predetermined locations. At these locations, the “close contact” must display the sms that identifies them as close contact, and should then provide the code sent to them, along with proof of identification (identity card, passport or ARC). In order for a “close contact” to receive an sms with an appointment, the “positive case” must have declared their contacts through the relevant electronic platform, or by filling and sending back the excel file they received. It is noted that if the 3rd day of contact has passed, only the 5th day test will be scheduled, while if the 5th day has passed, then no appointment will be scheduled, and the contact will have to find an alternative route for testing, at their own expense.
4. Health professionals working in public or private Hospital Units or nursing homes might follow a different protocol to return to work under conditions set by the Infection Control Committee of the Hospital or the Medical Services of the Ministry of Health. Socially they must follow the instructions that apply for all contacts.
5. For close contacts classified as contacts of a variant of concern, guidelines may be modified. These persons will be contacted by telephone from a public officer for any changes in procedure.



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- In the event that **close contacts are unable to isolate from a positive case** (eg. parents minding an underage child, carers assisting persons who are unable to care for themselves, etc) **then on the day that the positive case is released they can proceed to rapid test or PCR testing and if negative they can be released from isolation protocol.**
- In the event that a person has been declared as a contact to a positive case, instructions for testing will be send by sms on the phone provided or an officer will contact the suspected case by telephone within a few days for briefing as to testing.
- Rapid test result will be sent by text message (sms) on the same date of the test.

Personal Doctor

- The Personal Doctor does not need to be notified immediately, except in the event of symptoms onset. Then the doctor can schedule further free PCR testing if deemed necessary.
- Self-monitoring of body temperature is recommended.
- In the event of non-registration to a Personal Doctor, immediate registration is recommended. If this is not feasible, the person can call the 24hour ambulance service's hotline line for symptoms report and evaluation.

For general information, call 1474 (08:00-20:00).

For any additional information to close contacts and clarifications on the contact tracing process, contact the Tracing Team on the following numbers: 22514264, 22514258, 22514259, or by email to contacttracing2@moh.gov.cy (Monday-Sunday 08:00-20:00).

To report symptoms, call your Personal Doctor or ambulance services (24 hours).

Medical Services and Public Health Services
Ministry of Health
15/05/2022