



ΚΥΠΡΙΑΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ
ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΥΓΕΙΑΣ

ΙΑΤΡΙΚΕΣ ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΕΣ ΚΑΙ
ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΕΣ ΔΗΜΟΣΙΑΣ ΥΓΕΙΑΣ
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Revised guidelines 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 may get infected and can transmit the SARS-CoV-2 virus to their environment.

Close contacts are determined as follows:

- a) A person living 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 traveler 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:

The isolation is not mandatory for 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.

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 (PD) 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, 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 “COVID19 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 close contact it has be examined at their own expense.

For the result of rapid test, the close contact will be informed within the day of the test via sms.

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 who came into contact with a case infected with a new strain of the virus (variant of concern), guidelines may be modified. These persons will be contacted by telephone from a public officer for any changes in procedure.
6. People identified as “close contacts” **who are not able to isolate from a case** (eg. parents minding an underage child, careers assisting COVID/19 cases who are unable to care for



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themselves, etc.) **will be able to request a “special absence Certificate for Public Health Reasons” (see below) to present to the competent services after discharge of the positive case assuming they have ensured a negative test result (rapid or PCR).**

Personal Doctor

- The Personal Doctor should be notified in case of symptoms develop. Then the doctor can schedule free PCR testing if deemed necessary.
- Daily temperature measurement and self-monitoring of symptoms is recommended for the person who is close contact.
- 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: 22421600, 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
26/10/2022



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Application for the issuance of an absence Certificate for Public Health Reasons

Date of request*:
(make sure the form is filled in and sent after the completion of the isolation period)

Full Name*:

Identification Number* or Passport Number*:
(attach a copy)

Telephone Number*:

E-mail/ Fax Number*:

Name of confirmed case*:

Telephone Number of confirmed case:

Date of last contact with confirmed case*:

Date of first isolation day (quarantine)*:

Date of last isolation day (quarantine)*:

**Relationship with confirmed case (note accordingly e.g. Colleague,
Classmate etc)*:**

Any additional information concerning the contact:
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Date and time of Arival*:
Attach copy of travel documents (boarding pass or travel ticket) that confirms the date of arrival to Cyprus.

Signature*:

***Mandatory Fields**

*The application should be sent either by fax to 22771496 or via email to
cycomnet1@cytanet.com.cy*