

# MEDICAL SERVICES PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES 1449 NICOSIA

### **Revised guidelines for confirmed COVID-19 cases**

All confirmed cases receive a link and access codes via sms on the mobile phone they provided upon sampling, to access and complete an electronic form where they are required to check their personal information, report their contacts and their Personal Doctor (PD), in order to get the release certificates when their quarantine period is completed. The person with a positive COVID19 test can complete the form via smart phone, tablet or computer at <a href="https://phase.ucy.ac.cy/">https://phase.ucy.ac.cy/</a>. The access code lasts 48 hours from the time the sms is received. If this electronic form is not completed correctly, then the cases might not receive the discharge papers that needed to prove their recovery and they cannot receive any certificate from the Republic of Cyprus. For instructions on how to fill the electronic form check the <a href="https://proceedings.com/">Frequently Asked Question</a> file or contact the following telephone numbers 22421600 (Monday to Sunday 08:00-20:00).

If the case did not receive the sms with the access codes and the link within 48 hours from the positive test, they should still isolate and contact the laboratory that performed the test directly to check if all their contact details were sent correctly to the Ministry of Health.

COVID19 confirmed cases with mild symptoms can self-isolate at home for the isolation period that is needed (see release protocol https://www.pio.gov.cy/coronavirus/eng/categories/information-guidelines). The applies for confirmed cases who have been hospitalized and were discharged from the hospital. This decision should be taken after telephone evaluation by their doctor and previously ensure the appropriate conditions of isolation in their house, as well as frequent communication with a health professional. If the application of all the following guidelines is not possible, or if they are vulnerable people in the same house then there is providence of free public quarantine and free transportation after arrangements with the Ministry of Health.

No person with a positive COVID19 test is allowed to stay in a hotel other than public quarantine places. Private house/apartment or villa rent arrangements must be made by the individual with own expenses otherwise the free public quarantine and free transportation can be arranged by calling 22605678 or through email: <a href="mailto:contacttacing8@moh.gov.cy">contacttacing8@moh.gov.cy</a> (Monday-Sunday 08:00-20:00).

Vaccinated people who have a positive laboratory result for SARS-COV-2 and/or had previous infection also need to isolate and must follow the instructions below as any COVID-19 case. All positive self-tests must be confirmed by a rapid test or PCR from any place these are provided.



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#### **Guidelines for home isolation**

- Ideally, each confirmed case should stay in their own house. If this is not possible, the person with COVID-19 must be isolated in a room, not used by the rest of the household members under any circumstances.
- The room in which the confirmed case will use to isolate, should be well ventilated.
- The confirmed cases are not allowed to leave their house. \*
- No visitors are allowed.
- It is suggested that they use separate cutlery and any other kitchenware from other housemates. If this is not possible, disinfection is advised with any common disinfectant/soap after each use and then dry well.
- It is suggested that a separate toilet and bathroom be used from other housemates. In case this cannot be applied, the toilet and bathroom should be disinfected after each use according to the instructions (https://www.pio.gov.cy/coronavirus/pdf/enpb.pdf).
- If there is a scheduled trip/voyage before the official release date, it is FORBIDDEN for this trip to take place before the self-isolation period is completed.
- Exception to leave the home isolation is ONLY permitted in cases of medical emergencies and after telephone approval by the doctor of the positive case. In that case, transportation should be unaccompanied and only by personal vehicle or ambulance; use of public transportation is forbidden (e.g. bus or taxi).
- Until the end of the isolation period, waste should be placed in a double well-sealed plastic/waterproof waste bag and stored for 72 hours in a separate area from the usual collection point. At the end of 72 hours they can be placed in their usual collection area.

### **Role of the Private Doctor**

- The confirmed cases must inform their doctor about their positive result. The doctor is also automatically informed after the cases complete their electronic form <a href="https://phase.ucy.ac.cy/">https://phase.ucy.ac.cy/</a>.
- Daily temperature and oxygen saturation monitoring.
- Frequent telephone contact with the doctor is suggested every 24 to 48 hours. If symptoms appear, the doctor should be notified immediately.
- In case a doctor is not available, the patient can contact the ambulance services hotline to report their symptoms.
- For information about the release protocol visit <a href="https://www.pio.gov.cy/coronavirus/eng/categories/information-guidelines">https://www.pio.gov.cy/coronavirus/eng/categories/information-guidelines</a>, call 22605306, or contact <a href="mailto:covidfollowup@moh.gov.cy">covidfollowup@moh.gov.cy</a> for release arrangements (Monday-Sunday 08:00-20:00).



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### Discharge/ Release from self-isolation

- The period of isolation is set at 7 days. According to the latest revised protocol then case is automatically discharged on the 7<sup>th</sup> day, counting the date from the sampling date of the first positive result (the first day considered as day zero). The case can return to his routine as his health condition allows. For example, if a case was tested positive on Monday, can be discharged and returns to his/her routine the following Monday.
- Cases will be informed via sms about the discharge from the previous evening. This message can be used for returning to work, school etc. For receiving the discharge sms and for the officially discharging of the case is necessary the electronic registration to the platform PHASE within the first 48 hours from the positive test.
- The positive case has the option to conduct PCR testing with own expense in a laboratory approved by Ministry of Health at the 5<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> day of isolation and be discharged on the same day if the PCR test is negative. It is important that the laboratory should be informed before the arrival of the positive case. All protective measures should be strictly applied.
- If the positive case does not present any active symptoms or has a significant improvement in the existing symptoms the case can be released on day 7. Otherwise, the Personal Doctor must be informed and is possible to extend the isolation period of the case, if necessary.
- For immunosuppressed patients, patients with serious health problems, residents of shelters for vulnerable population groups, may follow a different discharge protocol (see discharge protocol at the link <a href="www.pio.gov.cy/coronavirus/category/info">www.pio.gov.cy/coronavirus/category/info</a> on the subcategory «instructions for people in quarantine».

## Sick Leave/ Recovery Certificate/ Safe Pass/ European Union Digital Covid Certificate (EUDCC)

- A sick leave certificate, is issued by the Private Doctor for all COVID19 cases or in the absence of doctor the case can contact covidfollowup@moh.gov.cy or call 22605306.
- To issue an EUDCC (European Certificate) all recovered patients can visit the link https://www.eudcc.gov.cy/.
   In case of inability to issue the certificate, the case should contact the recovery team by telephone 22605687 or by email eudcc.recovery@moh.gov.cy.



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### The COVID19 case detects and informs his/her close contacts

Close contact is defined as:

- A person who lives with a confirmed case.
- A person who has had direct physical contact with a confirmed case (eg. Handshake, play).
- A person who has had unprotected contact with confirmed infectious aerosols.
- A person who had face-to-face contact with a confirmed case at a distance of less than 2 meters and lasting more than 15 minutes, or frequent contacts at a distance of less than 2 meters within 24 hours.
- A person found indoors (e.g. classroom, cinema, hospital waiting areas, car etc.) with a confirmed case for more than 15 minutes and at a distance of less than 2 meters.
- A healthcare professional or other person providing health care to a COVID-19 case, or laboratory personnel handling a confirmed case sample, without using the appropriate protective equipment or if there was a rupture in its integrity.
- Companion on an aircraft/bus sitting up to two rows (in each direction) from a
  confirmed case, persons traveling together or caring for the patient, crew members
  serving the part of the airplane where the patient was sitting (possibly all passengers
  sitting in the same section), even all the passengers of the flight can be considered as
  close contacts if due to the serious symptoms of the patient and movements of the
  patient in the aircraft (entails a more extensive exposure)

For contact tracing reasons the case must report the close contacts they had <u>2 days before</u> <u>symptom onset or 2 days before the testing date in asymptomatic cases</u> (taking into account the latest date of contact).

Close contacts are tested free of charge with 2 rapid tests (on day 3 and 5). In order for a test to be scheduled, the person who is positive for COVID19 must report them via the electronic form <a href="https://phase.ucy.ac.cy/">https://phase.ucy.ac.cy/</a>. This has to do only with social contacts (family, friends etc.). For workplaces, schools, hospitals etc. the health and safety officer must report the close contacts though a specific <a href="table to report close contacts">table to report close contacts</a> (excel file also found <a href="https://bit.ly/32T2cUI">https://bit.ly/32T2cUI</a>) and send it to <a href="mailto:contacttracing@moh.gov.cy">contacttracing@moh.gov.cy</a> as soon as possible.

All close contacts must follow the official guidelines "Isolation guidelines for close contacts of COVID19 case" found on https://www.pio.gov.cy/coronavirus/categories/info.

For health professional working in hospital settings other arrangements might apply in order to return to work earlier following the hospital's local infection control team



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#### **Absence Certificate for Public Health Reasons**

Provisions are in place for special leave given by the Ministry of Health to one parent for supervision of a positive child under 15 years old or caregiver of a positive case with selfcare difficulties. The relevant file is attached (on the last page), but can also be filled electronically as follows:

- 1. On the website <a href="https://www.pio.gov.cy/coronavirus/eng">https://www.pio.gov.cy/coronavirus/eng</a>, tab Information Guidelines, tab Guidelines for persons in isolation, the *Application for the issuance of an absence from work Certificate for Public Health Reasons* form can be found. Otherwise find it attached a the end of this document.
- 2. The form must be filled and sent **after the quarantine period** by fax (22771496) or through email (<u>cycomnet1@cytanet.com.cy</u>), as written on the form. The certificate will be sent back in the same way.
- 3. The Application for the issuance of an absence from work Certificate for Public Health Reasons form, issued by the Ministry of Health, must be submitted to the Employer or to the Social Insurance Services.

For general information about COVID19, contact 1474 (Monday-Sunday 08:00-20:00).

To report any symptoms, contact your doctor or ambulance service's hotline (24 hours).

For release protocol issues, contact <u>covidfollowup@moh.gov.cy</u>, or 22605306 (Monday-Friday 08:00-20:00).

For free quarantine place and free transport arrangements call 22605678 or through email: <a href="mailto:contacttacing8@moh.gov.cy">contacttacing8@moh.gov.cy</a> (Monday-Sunday 08:00-20:00)

For any further instructions and clarifications, contact the Contact Tracing Team 22421600 or email contacttracing2@moh.gov.cy (Monday-Sunday 08:00-20:00).

\*Home quarantine may be monitored by either on-site or telephone checks. People under house isolation are required to comply with regulations. In case of non-compliance, they may be exposed to legal actions.

Medical Services and Public Health Services
Ministry of Health
26/10/2022

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# MEDICAL SERVICES PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES 1449 NICOSIA

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*:
Vaccination: YES NO
Date of fist dose:
Date of second dose:
Date of third dose:
Date of fourth dose:
Minor care (under 15 years old)/ case that needs a caregiver's help: YES NO
Duration (Dates) of stay at home for minor/case care
Minor's/ case's Name:
Minor's/ case's ID/Passport/ARC:
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:
Any additional information concerning the contact:
Signature*:
*Mandatory Fields
The application should be sent either by fax to 22771496 or via email to <a href="mailto:cycomnet1@cytanet.com.cy">cycomnet1@cytanet.com.cy</a>