**COVID-19 Response Coordination**

**Self-isolation and testing requirements for contacts of COVID-19 cases**

The release from isolation guidelines in the COVID-19 CDNA National Guidelines for Public Health Units were updated on 15 November 2021.

**Table for self-isolation and testing requirements for primary close contacts**

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| **Fully vaccinated close contacts**  | **Unvaccinated/partially vaccinated close contacts or unknown vaccination status**  |
| **Self-isolation requirements** * Fully vaccinated close contacts must self-isolate for 7 days following the last possible contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case during the case’s infectious period.
* The person must self-isolate for 7 days regardless of any negative test result.
* NSW Health currently restricts entry into high-risk settings, which includes disability care, for 14 days following the last contact.

**Testing during self-isolation**Testing of close contacts should occur: * if COVID-19 symptoms develop
* at the start of self-isolation
* before completing the self-isolation period – the person should have a test on day 6 post-exposure.

Public health units can extend self-isolation if a close contact refuses to undergo day 6 testing.**Other measures** In some circumstances, NSW Health may require the person to wear a face mask for 14 days when out of the house. | **Self-isolation requirements** * Unvaccinated or partially vaccinated close contacts must self-isolate for 14 days following the last possible contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case during the case’s infectious period.
* The person must self-isolate for 14 days regardless of any negative test result.

**Testing during self-isolation** Testing of close contacts should occur: * if COVID-19 symptoms develop
* at the start of self-isolation
* mid self-isolation on day 6 post exposure
* before completing the self-isolation period – the person should have a test on day 12 or 13
* if there is reason to doubt compliance with self-isolation or high risk of the close contact becoming a case.

Public health units can extend self-isolation if a close contact refuses to undergo day 12 or day 13 testing. |

**Casual contacts**

As at 20 November 2021, NSW Health directions for a person who is a casual contact of a person with COVID-19 are:

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| **Fully vaccinated, unvaccinated or partially vaccinated casual contacts**  |
| **Self-isolation requirements** * Casual contacts must self-isolate until they get a negative COVID-19 test result.

**Testing during self-isolation*** Casual contacts must get tested at the start of self-isolation.

**Other measures** * The person should have a test on day 6 post-exposure.
* Managers of staff who work in high-risk settings should consider requiring a staff member who is a casual contact to wear a N95 mask until at least their day 6 test result is negative.
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**Secondary close contacts**

Secondary close contacts are close contacts of primary close contacts.

Northcott requires that secondary close contacts in high-risk settings are identified, isolated, and tracked.

Generally, all disability services are high-risk settings, including group homes, in-home care, and day programs.

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| **Fully vaccinated, unvaccinated or partially vaccinated secondary close contacts** |
| **Self-isolation requirements** * Secondary close contacts must self-isolate until they and the primary contact get a negative test result.

**Testing during self-isolation*** Secondary close contacts must get tested at the start of self-isolation.
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**Advice for secondary casual and tertiary contacts**

Tertiary contacts are contacts of secondary contacts.

There is no special management required for secondary casual contacts or tertiary contacts.

Staff or customers who are concerned about contact with a secondary contact should be advised that such contact is very low risk and that they should monitor themselves for symptoms.

**END**