

Actions to take for UQ staff and students who test COVID-19 positive or are a close contact

This document will be updated with further revisions of the public health direction ([Management of Diagnosed Cases of COVID-19 and Close Contacts Direction](#)) as they are released. Staff and students should not solely rely on UQ summaries and must remain up to date with changes to Public Health Directions.

Highlighted **yellow** text are the changes from the previous version (4 May 2022)

1. Isolation and Management

	COVID-19 Diagnosed Person	Exposure to COVID-19 diagnosed person – Close Contact
<p>Isolation and testing</p>	<p>Immediately upon being informed of a positive COVID-19 test result (i.e. a positive PCR test or a positive Rapid Antigen Test (RAT)), isolate at their isolation premises for a period of 7 full days from the date of undertaking the test (day 0) or as otherwise directed by an emergency officer (public health).</p> <p>A positive RAT should be registered within 14 days through this link - https://www.qld.gov.au/rat-positive</p> <p>If a person has any COVID-19 symptoms – assume COVID-19, remain at their isolation premises and get tested as soon as possible.</p> <p>A diagnosed person who is not immunocompromised and who does not have symptoms consistent with COVID-19, does not become a close contact of another person within the same household if the household member become a diagnosed person within 12 weeks of the originally diagnosed person completing isolation.</p> <p>If COVID-19 symptoms appear again and it is more than 12 weeks since the person had COVID-19 and completed isolation, the person must get tested. If it is a positive result, then the person must complete 7 full days of isolation and follow post-isolation requirements (see below)</p>	<p>A diagnosed person must inform their household and household like contacts that each household member is considered a close contact.</p> <p>Close contacts do not have to quarantine provided they do not have any symptoms and they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • wear a mask outside of home for 7 days; • do not visit any vulnerable or high-risk settings (hospitals, residential aged care facilities, disability accommodation services, corrective services facilities and detention centres) for 7 days (except for healthcare workers including students on placement); and • let their employer know they are a close contact, and work or study from home if possible. <p>It is recommended that if they are leaving home eg to work or study that they undertake regular testing, every second day (0, 2, 4 and 6).</p> <p>If the close contact has symptoms or develops symptoms, they must immediately have a COVID-19 test If:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A positive result is returned the person must isolate as a diagnosed person. • If a negative result is returned they must remain in quarantine until symptoms resolve. <p>A close contact must follow the Guideline for Close Contacts approved by the Chief Health Officer.</p> <p>If the person has recovered from COVID-19 in the last 12 weeks and develop respiratory symptoms, the Chief Health Officer has recommended</p>

		<p>that they stay at home until the symptoms resolve. They do not need testing unless advised to do so by their medical practitioner.</p> <p>The above applies to staff and students on placement in a healthcare setting. Although, be aware that some placement providers (i.e. Oral Health, Metro North at Herston) are NOT accepting placement students who are deemed close contacts until after day 8 (negative RAT day 6); the person must discuss with their local placement managers regarding local placement requirements</p>
<p>Release from isolation</p>	<p>A diagnosed person may leave isolation, and is deemed to be a cleared case of COVID-19, at the earlier of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 full days after undertaking the test if the person has no fever or acute respiratory symptoms and a direction to isolate has not been given by Public Health, <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • if the diagnosed person has fever or acute respiratory symptoms on Day 7 of isolation, once those symptoms have resolved. <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • if the positive result is found to be a historic infection and the person is no longer considered infectious (provided the person does not have symptoms consistent with COVID-19). <p>A diagnosed person does not need another COVID-19 test to end their isolation period.</p>	
<p>Post isolation or quarantine requirements</p>	<p>A diagnosed person must for 7 days after the end of isolation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • wear a face mask, including whenever indoors, or when outdoors when unable to remain physically distance from others. • wash their hands regularly, and • not enter and remain in a <i>vulnerable or high-risk setting</i> (e.g., hospital, aged care facility, shared disability accommodation service and detention centres) unless requiring medical care or permitted to enter as an employee of the vulnerable and high-risk setting, or where permitted to enter the vulnerable and high risk setting under another public health direction. <p>NB – An employee includes a student undertaking an educational placement.</p>	

	<p>In the 12 weeks post isolation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is unlikely reinfection of COVID-19 will occur within this time. • If during this time, COVID-19 symptoms appear, re-testing is not required. • If someone else in the household tests positive for COVID-19, you are not considered a close contact, and therefore are not required to be tested or to quarantine. <p>For more information see Qld government Advice 'After Having COVID-19'</p>	
--	--	--

2. Required action to take

COVID diagnosed person	Exposure to COVID-19 diagnosed person – Close Contact
<p>Staff members: A diagnosed staff member is to notify their supervisor or designated contact as soon as possible – apply for sick leave. If at work – they must don a mask and leave work immediately. Supervisor or in the case of a report from students, the relevant staff member, is to notify other staff and students (e.g., tutors, persons involved in small group work etc) in the immediate area with permission from the diagnosed person. Permission is not required if the person is de-identified. If COVID positive person is well enough and able to, discuss working from home arrangements.</p> <p>If a staff member is working in a healthcare setting or high-risk setting, some of these facilities may institute different local protocols. Therefore, they must notify their Clinical Unit immediately upon being deemed a diagnosed person or upon returning from international travel so they can provide them with site specific advice prior to returning to the Clinical Unit.</p>	<p>Staff Members: If a person is at work, is asymptomatic (with no symptoms) and they have been deemed to be a close contact, they are to notify their supervisor or designated contact and must follow the requirements outlined above in “Isolation and testing”.</p> <p>If a staff member is working in a healthcare setting or high-risk setting, some of these facilities may institute different local protocols. Therefore, they must notify the Clinical Unit immediately upon being deemed a close contact or upon returning from international travel so they can provide the staff member with site specific advice prior to returning to the Clinical Unit.</p>
<p>Students: If on campus, don a mask and leave the campus immediately, notify the lecturer or course coordinator who will notify others they may have been in close contact with a diagnosed case (see above). If the student is going to miss compulsory learning activities or assessment items, notify the course coordinator or apply for an extension in the usual way.</p>	<p>Students: If a student is asymptomatic and deemed a close contact they must follow the government requirements outlined above in “Isolation and testing”.</p> <p>If a student is on placement in a healthcare facility, the student must notify the site’s manager if they intend to return within 7 days of contact, and comply with the direction given. The student must follow the requirements for ‘Isolating and testing’ as outlined above.</p>

<p>If on placement, advise the WIL Placement Coordinator or School/Clinical Unit, and the placement supervisor.</p> <p>Some vulnerable facilities may institute different local protocols. Therefore, they must notify the Clinical Unit immediately upon being deemed a diagnosed person or upon returning from international travel so they can provide the person with site specific advice prior to returning to the Clinical Unit or clinical placement</p>	<p>Some vulnerable facilities may institute different local protocols. Therefore, they must notify the Clinical Unit immediately upon being deemed a close contact or upon returning from international travel so they can provide the person with site specific advice prior to returning to the Clinical Unit or clinical placement</p>
--	---

<p>Cleaning precautions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deep cleans are no longer required. • If a person has COVID-like symptoms at work a routine clean is all that is required with household grade products. P&F do not need to be called to carry out the clean. See Safety Note - Cleaning of work areas to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 • If a person has no symptoms at work but is deemed to be a close contact – no additional cleaning required.
------------------------------------	--

Definitions:

Close contact means a person who is a household member at the time the diagnosed person undertakes the COVID-19 test that produced a positive test result, or a household-like contact of a diagnosed person. This does not apply to work situations as it specifically relates to accommodation situations.

Household means, except in exceptional circumstances determined by the Chief Health Officer or delegate, persons who ordinarily reside at the same premises or place of accommodation as the diagnosed person, and who are residing at the premises or place of accommodation at relevant time for determining quarantine. E.g. members of a family that live in the same house are a household. A group of unrelated people that share a house is a household.

Household-like contact means, except in exceptional circumstances determined by the Chief Health Officer, a person who has spent more than four hours with the diagnosed person in a house or other place of accommodation, such as a residential aged care facility, disability accommodation, hospital or similar setting, unless the person has been in a separate part of the house, place of accommodation, that has a separate point of entry, no shared common areas, where the person does not share that area for more than four hours, and the person has no contact or interaction with the diagnosed person for more than four hours.. E.g., a person in a self-contained unit with a separate point of entry and access to shared common areas for less than four hours is not a household-like contact of a diagnosed person.

Isolation premises for a **diagnosed person** means:

- a. their **home**, where their **home** is a safe driving distance from where the **diagnosed person** is informed of their positive **COVID-19 test** result; or
- b. their **place of accommodation**, or other **premises** at which the **diagnosed person** can comply with the **isolation** requirements; or
- c. another **nominated premises**, including as otherwise directed by an **emergency officer (public health)**; or
- d. a part of any of the **premises** identified in sub-paragraphs (a) to (c) where only that part of the **premises** is used for **isolation**.