Key points for construction industry in responding to a case of COVID-19

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Response to an isolated case of COVID-19 on a site:

• When a case of COVID-19 is identified, even if asymptomatic and/or vaccinated, the case will be contacted by the Public Health Contact Tracing team who will:
  - Inform the case of their diagnosis.
  - Identify and collect contact details of all close contacts from the case, including community contacts and workplace contacts.
  - Collect details of any congregate settings identified which may be contacts; this would include any building sites a construction worker may have worked on during the time period that they would be considered infectious. The case will be asked to provide contact details for their line manager.
• The case will be advised to self-isolate for 10 FULL days from the date of the test (if asymptomatic) or for 10 FULL days since they first developed symptoms. The contact tracing team will then contact all close contacts and organise testing for them according to guidelines*, and advise them to start restricting their movements. They will be tested at Day 0 and Day 10 after their last contact with the COVID-19 case. If their Day 10 test results are “not detected” they can stop restricting their movements. If a close contact is not tested for COVID 19 (for example they decline testing), they must restrict their movements from 14 days after their last contact with the index case.
  *Contact tracing guidelines vary for those who have significant vaccine protection. Please see here for further information.
• An individual – case or close contact - cannot attend the workplace during their period of restricted movements, regardless of the result of their test. Once their period of restricted movements is completed they can return to work, provided they have no symptoms.
• Guidelines on restricted movement vary for those who have significant vaccine protection and are a close contact of a non-variant of concern or a variant of concern case. Please see here for further information.
• In the case of a workplace, the line manager will receive a call from Public Health, who will discuss workplace practices, undertake a risk assessment and provide advice.

What to do if an employee informs you that they have tested positive for COVID-19:

• If a line manager is informed by their employee that they have tested positive for COVID-19, the line manager should proceed as follows:
  - Reassure workers that all close contacts will be contacted by Public Health and appropriate follow up arranged.
  - If any workers at the site are displaying symptoms of COVID-19 they should be advised to self-isolate and to contact their GP to arrange testing, even if they are vaccinated. However, testing of asymptomatic co-workers is not required unless they have been identified as close contacts by Public Health.
  - It is not necessary to close a site or part of a site in response to an isolated case of COVID-19, unless it is not possible to continue operating - for example in a situation where an entire
team have been deemed to be close contacts and therefore will need to restrict their movements, thus necessitating closure due to insufficient staffing levels.

- The line manager of the case should expect to receive a call from the Public Health contact tracing team if their work place is deemed to have been exposed to the case during their infectious period.

What to do if you have been informed of multiple cases of COVID-19 amongst your workers:

- If a line manager is informed of multiple confirmed cases of COVID-19 on their site and has concerns that there may be a cluster of cases linked to the site:
  - The line manager should contact Occupational Health or their local Public Health Department in a situation where multiple laboratory-confirmed cases of COVID-19 occur on a site.

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