

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 of this case and will advise close contacts to take measures. These measures will vary depending on vaccination status and previous infection.
- All symptomatic close contacts should book a test online. If symptoms persist, contact your GP by telephone. Symptomatic close contacts are advised to self-isolate (including not going to work) for 10 full days and are managed as per the current recommendations for suspected COVID-19 cases, with urgent testing for COVID-19 infection undertaken
- Asymptomatic close contacts who are fully vaccinated will receive a Rapid Antigen Detection Test (RADT) and will be requested to self-administer one antigen test as soon they get the test, and repeat a test every second day until three antigen tests have been performed. Please see [section 5.3.2](#) of '[National Guidelines for Public Health Management of contacts of cases of COVID-19](#)' for further information as RADTs are not recommended for all asymptomatic close contacts.
- Asymptomatic close contacts who are not fully vaccinated and who do not have a history of prior infection in the previous 9 months must restrict their movements pending the outcome of testing. They will be advised to get a RT-PCR test at day 0 and day 10 and advised to continue to restrict their movements until they receive a “not detected” test result from the Day 10 test. The Day 10 test is to be performed 10 full days after that last contact (where day 1 begins the day after the close contact’s last contact with the 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.

- 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.
- In the case of a workplace, where appropriate, the line manager may receive a call from Public Health, who will discuss work place 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:
 - Inform workers Public Health will contact those identified as close contacts for follow up to be arranged, where appropriate.
 - If any workers at the site are displaying symptoms of COVID-19 (regardless of vaccination status) they should be advised to [self-isolate](#) and arrange testing by [booking online](#).
 - Asymptomatic close contacts who are fully vaccinated will receive a Rapid Antigen Detection Test (RADT) and will be requested to self-administer one antigen test as soon they get the test, and repeat a test every second day until three antigen tests have been performed.
 - 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 are required to restrict their movements, thus necessitating closure due to insufficient staffing levels.
 - The line manager of the case may receive a call from the Public Health contact tracing team (where appropriate) 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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