



## Quick Guide for Healthcare Worker (HCW) Management V13 – 28th March 2022

Healthcare Worker (HCW) Close Contacts identified in a Healthcare Facility are managed in line with Public Health Guidance. See [here](#).

For HCW queries on Covid-19 please see - <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/> or contact HSE Live – 1800 700700 (Monday to Friday: 8am to 8pm; Saturday and Sunday: 9am to 5pm)

**Table 1 – HCW COVID-19 Cases**

	<b>HCW has <a href="#">symptoms of Covid-19</a> or a HCW has a positive antigen test</b>
<b>Any HCW with/without recent close contact regardless of vaccination or previous infection</b>	<p>Symptomatic HCWs or HCWs with a <b>positive antigen test</b> should self-isolate immediately. Those with a positive antigen test do not need a confirmatory PCR test. <b>They should log the positive antigen test online at <a href="https://antigentesting.hse.ie/">https://antigentesting.hse.ie/</a></b></p> <p><b>Symptomatic</b> HCWs with a <b>negative antigen test</b> should self-isolate and arrange a PCR test.</p> <p>Symptomatic HCWs should arrange a PCR test via the online portal - <a href="https://healthservice.hse.ie/staff/coronavirus/testing/testing-for-healthcare-workers.html">https://healthservice.hse.ie/staff/coronavirus/testing/testing-for-healthcare-workers.html</a> or if no access online, via their GP.</p> <p>If the PCR or antigen test is positive the HCW must follow <a href="#">Public Health advice</a> and inform their line manager to allow for further contact tracing/workforce planning.</p> <p>If PCR test is negative HCWs can return to work 48 hours after symptoms have resolved.</p> <p><b>Please note, Occupational Health are no longer involved in this process and does not need to be notified of positive test results.</b></p>
	<b>HCW is a confirmed case based on antigen or PCR test</b>
<b>All HCWs</b>	<p>HCWs must isolate for a full 7 days and follow <a href="#">Public Health advice</a> for Covid Detected Cases</p> <p>If symptoms have substantially or fully resolved for the final 2 days of 7 full days, the HCW can return to work in any healthcare facility on day 8. The HCW must adhere to IPC requirements while in the workplace, and must ensure that they wear a medical grade mask at all times in the healthcare setting on Days 8, 9 and 10.</p> <p>Where symptoms have not resolved, isolation continues for full 10 days and return to work is allowed if symptoms have substantially or fully resolved for the final two of those ten days.</p> <p>If an asymptomatic HCW with positive results develops symptoms during the period of self-isolation, the period of self-isolation recommences from the day symptoms began.</p>



Table 2 - HCW Close Contacts

<p>Asymptomatic HCW is a close contact of Confirmed 'Covid -19 Detected' case (except household)</p>	<p>Asymptomatic close contacts <b>do not need to restrict movements, regardless of vaccination status and do not need to have PCR or antigen testing</b></p> <p>All close contacts should continue to adhere to Public Health protective measures and IPC advice.</p> <p><i>If they become symptomatic they should immediately self-isolate and get tested (as above) and wear a medical grade or FFP2 face mask.</i></p>
<p>HCW who are a close Contact of Confirmed Covid -19 household case.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not need to restrict movements in line with <a href="#">Public Health guidance</a></li> <li>• Wear an FFP2 mask or medical grade mask (surgical mask) for 10 full days</li> <li>• Complete 3 antigen tests - one as soon as possible, one 3 days later and final on 7<sup>th</sup> day</li> </ul> <p><b>The requirement of testing does not apply if they have recovered from COVID-19 in the previous three months.</b></p> <p>If becomes symptomatic or have positive antigen test, self-isolate and follow <a href="#">Public Health advice</a></p>

**Travel advice**

[Government guidance](#) on travel must be followed at all times by HCWs regarding pre/post travel testing or quarantine requirements. This guidance should be checked by the HCW at the date of return, as is subject to change

Details of those considered 'Fully vaccinated' for travel are also available at this link