



Quick Guide for Healthcare Worker (HCW) Management V11 – 13th Jan 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

	HCW has <u>symptoms of Covid-19</u> or a HCW has a positive antigen test
Any HCW with/without recent close contact regardless of vaccination or previous infection	<p>Symptomatic HCWs or HCWs with a positive antigen test should self-isolate immediately and arrange a PCR test via their GP or via the online portal - https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/testing/get-tested/.</p> <p>If the PCR test is positive please follow Public Health advice 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>Please note, Occupational Health are no longer involved in this process and do not need to be notified of positive test results.</p>
	HCW is a confirmed case based on antigen or PCR test
All HCWs	<p>HCWs must isolate for a full 7 days and follow Public Health advice 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, with a negative antigen test completed before their shift at home or at the healthcare facility. The HCW must adhere to IPC requirements while in the workplace.</p> <p>Where symptoms have not resolved or day 8 antigen test is positive, 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 without further antigen testing.</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

	Asymptomatic HCW is a close contact of any Confirmed 'Covid -19 Detected' case
HCW has a confirmed Covid Detected PCR or Antigen Test carried out since December 1st, 2021 (Regardless of vaccination status)	<p>The HCW is exempt from restriction of movements and testing unless they become symptomatic. 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>
HCW is Fully Vaccinated[†] PLUS (a) <u>more than 7 days after their booster</u> OR	<p>Day 0 being the day of last contact or day they are informed if contact unknown</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Restricted Movement • Wear an FFP2 mask or medical grade mask (surgical mask) for 10 full days • Complete 3 antigen tests - one as soon as possible, one 3 days later and



(b) Had previous COVID-19 infection within the past 3 months (but not on test carried out since December 1st 2021 – see above)	final on 7 th day If becomes symptomatic or have positive antigen test, self-isolate and follow Public Health advice
All other HCWs With no booster or no recent infection within the past 3 months Or not fully vaccinated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restrict Movement for 7 days from last contact with the case if known or if not known, from the date they are informed they are a close contact. • Wear an FFP2 mask or medical grade mask (surgical mask) for 10 full days • Complete 3 antigen tests - one as soon as possible, one 3 days later and final on 7th day <p>Only Fully Vaccinated† asymptomatic HCWs can be derogated to return to work following first ‘Not Detected’ antigen or PCR test. Derogation guidance must be followed</p>
Close contact – PUI Covid Detected VOC case (excluding Alpha, Delta and Omicron variants)	Restrict movements (RM) for 14 days. PCR test at day 0 and day 10; Can exit RM with both tests confirmed ‘not detected’ and return to work Derogation not permitted

- For specific information for close contacts of a household case from whom it is not feasible to self-isolate please see [Public Health Guidance](#)
- †Fully Vaccinated - Definition as per relevant guidance - ‘National Guidelines for Public Health management of contacts of cases of COVID-19’ - <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/guidance/contacttracingguidance/National%20Interim%20Guidance%20for%20contact%20tracing.pdf>.
- Derogation Guidance - <https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/workplace-health-and-wellbeing-unit/covid-19-guidance/derogation-for-the-return-to-work-of-healthcare-workers.pdf>

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