



# Clinician alert #87 – all clinicians

Effective from 9 September 2022

## COVID-19 mandatory isolation period reduced

### New information

- People who test positive for COVID-19 may leave isolation after five (5) days, if their acute symptoms have resolved. The close contact isolation period has also reduced to 5 days.
- Both cases and close contacts must not enter high-risk settings for 7 days after a positive test or becoming a close contact.
- Face masks must continue to be worn in high-risk settings.

### Requirements for cases

- Cases can be released from isolation **5 days (5 x 24 hours)** after their positive test if their acute symptoms have resolved.
- Those who continue to have symptoms after 5 days must remain isolated until symptoms have resolved. Further guidance for clinicians is available in [Release of cases from isolation](#).
- Cases should continue to take precautions such as mask wearing, physical distancing and practising regular hand hygiene, particularly on Day 6 and 7.
- Visitors, staff and elective patients at high-risk settings, including aged care facilities, residential care facilities (including disability care and mental health residential facilities) and health care settings, must not enter until it has been **7 days** since the date the positive test was taken (and their acute symptoms have resolved).

### Requirements for close contacts

- Asymptomatic close contacts may leave home during the **5-day isolation period**, provided they return a negative rapid antigen test (RAT) before leaving home each day and wear a mask.
- All close contacts must return a negative RAT on Day 5 or negative PCR test (no earlier than Day 4) before leaving isolation.
- Close contacts must not enter high-risk settings for **7 days** after becoming a close contact.
- Asymptomatic workers in high-risk settings may attend work in the **7 days** after becoming a close contact by adhering to requirements below:
  - advise their employer that they are a close contact, and receive confirmation from their employer that they agree to the person attending work,
  - be fully vaccinated,
  - return a daily negative RAT prior to leaving home,
  - actively monitor for symptoms,
  - leave the workplace and return home immediately if they develop symptoms or test positive,
  - only remain at the high-risk setting for the purpose of their work duties,
  - wear a surgical mask at minimum (in addition to other PPE the employer reasonably requires),
  - not share break areas with any other person in the high-risk setting, and
  - use reasonable endeavours to maintain a physical distance of 1.5m from other people in the workplace.

## Face masks

- Face masks, must continue to be worn in high-risk settings, including health care settings, aged care facilities, residential care facilities (including disability care and mental health residential facilities), and correctional facilities.
- Face masks are no longer required on domestic aircraft and public transport.

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