



## Quick Guide for Healthcare Worker (HCW) Management V9 – 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec 2021

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 - Close Contact Management**

	HCW has <b>symptoms of Covid-19</b> or a HCW has a <b>positive antigen test</b>
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 and arrange a PCR test via their GP or via the online portal - <a href="https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/testing/get-tested/">https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/testing/get-tested/</a>.</p> <p><b>If the PCR test is positive please follow Public Health advice and inform their line manager to allow for further contact tracing/workforce planning.</b></p> <p><b>Please note, Occupational Health are no longer involved in this process and do not need to be notified of positive test results.</b></p>
	<b>Asymptomatic HCW is a close contact of any Confirmed 'Covid -19 Detected' case</b>
<p>HCW is Fully Vaccinated<sup>†</sup> PLUS</p> <p>(a) <u>more than 7 days after their booster</u></p> <p>OR</p> <p>(b) <u>Had previous COVID-19 infection within the past 3 months</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restrict Movement for 5 days from when they are informed that they are a close contact. (Not from date of last exposure)</li> <li>Complete 3 antigen tests - one on the day received and one every second day until 3 completed.</li> <li>Complete all three antigen tests, even after restricted movement has ended.</li> </ul> <p><b>Can be derogated to return to work following first Not Detected antigen or PCR test. <a href="#">Derogation guidance</a> must be followed</b></p>
All other HCWs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restrict Movement for 10 days when they are informed that they are a Close Contact. (Not from date of last exposure)</li> <li>Complete 5 antigen tests, one on the day received, and repeated every second day until five antigen tests have been performed.</li> <li>Complete all five antigen tests, even after restricted movement has ended.</li> </ul> <p><b>Only Fully Vaccinated<sup>†</sup> HCWs can be derogated to return to work following first Not Detected antigen or PCR test. <a href="#">Derogation guidance</a> must be followed</b></p>
Close contact – PUI Covid Detected VOC case (excluding Alpha, Delta and Omicron variants)	<p><a href="#">Restrict movements</a> (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</p> <p><b>Derogation not permitted</b></p>
	<b>Asymptomatic HCW is a close contact of a symptomatic person awaiting a PCR result</b>
	<p>All close contacts of a symptomatic person awaiting an RT-PCR result should restrict their movements until the test result has come back regardless of the close contacts vaccination status or prior COVID-19 infection.</p> <p><b>Only Fully Vaccinated<sup>†</sup> HCWs can be derogated in these circumstances. <a href="#">Derogation guidance</a> must be followed</b></p>



- 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>

Table 2- Travel advice

	Unvaccinated HCW/No COVID-19 infection within previous 180 days	Fully Vaccinated* HCW/Confirmed COVID-19 infection within previous 180 days
HCW Returning from Travel (not a ‘scheduled state’)	If HCW has a negative RT-PCR result from a test taken within 72 hours prior to arrival into the country, HCW can attend work.	With proof of vaccination/recovery PLUS a negative RT-PCR result from a test taken within 72 hours or ‘professionally taken’ antigen test taken 48 hours prior to arrival, the HCW can attend work.
All HCWs returning from travel	All passengers arriving in Ireland are now advised to conduct antigen testing on a daily basis for a period of 5 consecutive days commencing on day of arrival (and to self-isolate immediately and seek a PCR test if they develop symptoms or have a positive antigen test).	
HCWs returning from a ‘Scheduled State’ – See Gov Guidance linked below	Requires PCR test result taken within 72 hours prior to arrival to Ireland. Quarantine at home for 14 days, from date of arrival, PCR test on day 2 and day 8. Can exit at day 10 with both tests confirmed ‘not detected’ and return to work. <b>Derogation not permitted</b>	

Travel requirements can change – [Government guidance](#) must be checked at date of return

\*‘Fully vaccinated’ for travel is available at this link