

CONTACTS OF COVID-19 CASES - ADDITIONAL SAFEGUARDS FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE STAFF 30 DECEMBER 2021

Checklist for employer to complete with staff member

This assessment should be used if a health or social care worker has been identified as a contact of a positive case of COVID-19 alongside the full guidance set out in the HSS(MD) 91/2021. In all situations it is the responsibility of the care provider to ensure that all steps set out below and in the detailed guidance are fully complied with.

Checklist – Employer with employees who are close contacts		
	Check	Mitigation
1	Does the staff member have COVID-19 symptoms? Symptoms – A high temperature A new, continuous cough A loss, or change to sense of taste or smell Other symptoms suggestive of COVID-19.	Yes – should arrange testing and self isolate No – move to Q2
2	Is the staff member fully vaccinated with two doses of MHRA approved vaccine with the second dose at least 14 days prior to the date of exposure?	No – staff member should self-isolate for 10 days. Yes – move to Q3
3	Has the staff member had a booster dose at least 14 days prior to the date of exposure to the case?	Yes – move to Q4 No – move to Q7
4	Does the staff member live with or have ongoing contact with the person who tested positive for COVID-19?	No – move to Q5 Yes – The worker can still return to work under this policy however , as transmission in households is more likely than in other settings consideration must be given as to whether there is ongoing close contact in the household. Particularly careful adherence to all mitigations is required. In some circumstances a decision to redeploy the staff member to a lower

		risk area may be appropriate. Move to Q5.
5	Does the staff member have contact with the most clinically vulnerable groups as determined by local management	<p>No - Can return to work without a PCR test provided risk assessment completed and staff adhere to <u>all</u> mitigations set out in this guidance including requirements for daily lateral flow testing are adhered to. Move to Q6</p> <p>Yes – arrange PCR or suitable alternative near patient test. If result is negative staff member can return to work. However, consideration should be given to the level or risk and whether staff member should be re-deployed to another area. Assessment and decision to be undertaken taken by Senior Manager.</p> <p>All other mitigations set out in the letter must be adhered to. Move to Q6.</p>
6	Does the staff member know where to access lateral flow device (LFD) tests and is able to use these appropriately?	<p>Yes – staff member should take a daily lateral flow test as set out in the guidance.</p> <p>LFD tests should be taken before leaving for work each day. Staff should report all LFD test results online at https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result</p> <p>No – Line manager should facilitate access to LFD tests prior to return to work and staff member should test as advised in this policy.</p>
7	<p><i>Only applies to staff who have had two doses of vaccine and are eligible for the booster but have not yet received it.</i></p> <p>Is there a serious risk to service continuity and the safe provision of care as a result of workforce shortages?</p>	<p>Yes - following a risk assessment, staff who are eligible for a booster but have not yet received it can return to work if they are identified as close contacts of COVID-19 cases and provided the suite of mitigations set out in this letter are followed. This is a time limited exemption and will only be applied until 14 January 2022. A senior manager must undertake the risk</p>

		<p>assessment in relation to service continuity and ensure all mitigations are followed as set out above.</p> <p>No – staff who are eligible for the booster but who have not yet received it should not return to work.</p>
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