

# **Management of Cases and Contacts of COVID-19 in Ontario**

August 11, 2021 (version 13.0)

## Version 13.0 – Significant Updates

Page #	Description
Throughout	The ' <a href="#">Case, Contact and Outbreak Management for Fully Immunized and Previously Positive Individuals</a> ' has been linked to and explained throughout.
<a href="#">7</a>	Updated PHU responsibilities
<a href="#">13</a>	Fully immunized individuals may be excluded from asymptomatic surveillance testing.
<a href="#">17</a>	Updated case & contact management indicators (fully immunized contacts not required to self isolate but still require notification).
<a href="#">20</a>	New section on notification of individuals identified through Backward Contact Tracing
<a href="#">22</a>	Vaccination status may be factored in the assessment of 'low pre-test probability' and re-testing may be recommended.
<a href="#">24</a>	Updated section: self-isolation of previous positives with new high-risk exposures.
<a href="#">28</a>	Updated section: Testing and Self-Isolation of Asymptomatic High-Risk Contacts (release after 10 days of self-isolation instead of previous 14 days)
<a href="#">29</a>	Follow up for high risk contacts is now day 5 and 10 of self-isolation
<a href="#">28</a>	Section 5.2 update: In some situations, the period of self-isolation can be extended up to 20 days (10 days contact isolation period + 10 days case isolation) OR until a negative test result is obtained.
<a href="#">35</a>	Updated table 4 and modified footnote 4 on PPE and eye protection.
<a href="#">47</a>	Updated section: Travellers from Outside of Canada
<a href="#">50</a>	New section: Contact tracing for train/bus/cruise ship passengers.

Ministry of Health. Health System Emergency Management Branch  
 1075 Bay Street, Suite 810. Toronto, Ontario. Canada, M5S 2B1  
 416-212-8022 (local); 1-866-212-2272 (long distance).  
[Emergencymanagement.moh@ontario.ca](mailto:Emergencymanagement.moh@ontario.ca)

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# Management of Cases and Contacts of COVID-19 in Ontario

Version 13.0 – August 11, 2021

This guidance document is not intended to take the place of medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Where the document includes references to legal requirements, it is not to be construed as legal advice.

In the event of any conflict between this guidance document and any orders or directives issued by the Minister of Health or the Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH), the order or directive prevails.

- Please check the Ministry of Health (MOH) [COVID-19 website](#) regularly for updates to this document, mental health resources, and other information,
- Please check the [Directives, Memorandums and Other Resources](#) page regularly for the most up to date directives.

This document provides information for public health management of cases and contacts in Ontario. The MOH has developed this document with contributions from [Public Health Ontario \(PHO\)](#) based on currently available scientific evidence and expert opinion. This document is subject to change as the situation with COVID-19 continues to evolve and as new tools/strategies to support public health management of cases and contacts are developed. This document is intended to provide broad guidelines only and cannot cover every scenario that may be encountered; therefore, local public health unit (PHU) decision-making is required.

Nothing in this document is intended to restrict or affect the discretion of local medical officers of health to exercise their statutory powers under the [Health Protection and Promotion Act](#). It is expected that all parties supporting case and contact management in Ontario will follow this guidance.

This document replaces 'Public Health Management of Cases and Contacts of COVID-19 in Ontario V 12.0' (May 6, 2021).

Sector-specific guidance documents also provide additional information about outbreaks in different settings (e.g., acute care, long-term care homes/retirement homes, workplaces, schools, congregate living settings). These documents are available on the [Ministry's website](#).

As part of the ongoing assessment and adjustment of public health measures in the province, and the spread of Variants of Concern (VOC)s, it is critical that chains of transmission are broken early and effectively through strong and timely case and contact management activities. The MOH has also released guidance on a [COVID-19 surge support model](#) to help augment PHU capacity during a period of sustained high case counts, VOC spread, and COVID-19 vaccination rollout. All efforts should be made to conduct full case and contact management programs, including through the use of provincial resources to augment local capacity. Issues with PHU capacity to complete all recommended case and contact activities in this guidance should be discussed with the Ministry of Health for assistance and/or prioritization.

# 1 Case and Contact Management Responsibilities

## Ministry of Health (MOH):

- Coordinate the provincial response to COVID-19.
- Support the coordination of complex case, contact, and outbreak management activities, including coordinating access to specialized workforce for case and contact management.
- Set provincial case definition.
- Set provincial standards for case and contact management.
- Share information with the public.
- Report case details to the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) as appropriate.
- Coordinate follow-up activities from the Canadian Border Services Agency.

## All Public Health Units (PHUs):

- Review the case and contact management guidance in this document.
- Review the [surge support model guidance](#); engage additional workforce resources and implement modifications as needed.
- Follow requirements of the [Health Protection and Promotion Act](#), as well as related regulations.
- Conduct COVID-19 case management for confirmed cases (and probable cases where feasible) as described in this document including: initial contact with cases, monitoring of cases until cleared from self-isolation, and updating case status as required.

- For hospitalized cases, the PHU is responsible for the initial interview but ongoing monitoring is the responsibility of the hospital while the patient remains in hospital.
- For international travellers arriving in Ontario, the PHU is responsible for case management as described in this document, including cases that test positive within the 14-day [Federal Quarantine period](#). Public Health Agency of Canada does not conduct case management.
- Should the public health unit become aware of a traveller not in compliance with the federal Quarantine period, they may contact their local police of jurisdiction with any concerns. The public health unit may also contact the Compliance and Enforcement office at PHAC at [phac.isolation-isolement.aspc@canada.ca](mailto:phac.isolation-isolement.aspc@canada.ca).
- Conduct COVID-19 contact management as described in this document, including:
  - ensuring that all contacts with high-risk exposures are notified once identified
  - ensuring that there is appropriate follow-up and management for all contacts that are followed by the PHU with high-risk exposures by:
    - Communicating with high-risk contacts over the course of their self-isolation
    - Verifying that high-risk contacts are compliant with self-isolation, and
    - Communicating MOH testing guidance to all high-risk contacts
  - ensuring that all contacts with low-risk exposures are followed up as appropriate as per Table 6
- Track and report on own performance management indicators for case and contact management as described by the MOH.
- Facilitate notification of testing recommendation to individuals identified through backwards contact tracing (PHU or case-led notification).
- Ensure timely and complete data entry and reporting of case, contact and outbreak information.
- Identify to the MOH any capacity gaps (real or anticipated) and other challenges to meeting program standards via the Ministry Emergency Operations Centre (MEOC) ([eocoperations.moh@ontario.ca](mailto:eocoperations.moh@ontario.ca)).

**Public Health Ontario (PHO):**

- Participate in the MEOC's response activities.



- Provide scientific and technical advice to stakeholders in areas such as laboratory testing, case and contact management, data entry requirements for reporting of cases, contacts and outbreaks, outbreak management recommendations, and advice on clinical management and infection prevention and control (IPAC) and occupational health and safety (OHS) measures.
- Provide instruction on data entry of cases, contacts and outbreaks, including but not limited to: updating and maintaining relevant data entry guidance documents and enhanced surveillance directives.
- Conduct and disseminate provincial epidemiological surveillance and analytic reports.
- Provide laboratory testing for COVID-19 and monitor the molecular evolution and epidemiology of the virus along with other laboratories in Ontario. Support interpretation of laboratory results, as needed.
- Support PHUs as needed with high-risk exposure, community contact follow-up through the case and contact management system (CCM).

#### **Acute Care Settings:**

- Acute care settings are responsible for monitoring close contacts who were exposed in the hospital and are **currently admitted** (i.e., inpatients), or were exposed in the community but are now admitted to hospital. This includes patients who were exposed in the emergency department and subsequently admitted. Acute care settings are also responsible for monitoring health care workers who were exposed at work.
- Acute care settings are not responsible for monitoring contacts of probable and confirmed cases who are currently in the community. This includes contacts who were exposed in an acute care setting or other health care setting (e.g., primary health care setting, urgent care clinic) but who are currently in the community and not hospitalized.
  - The responsibility for monitoring contacts that were exposed during their hospital admission (i.e., inpatients) and subsequently discharged prior to completing their monitoring period must be transferred from the acute care setting to the PHU.

#### **Other Sectors:**

- Other sectors also play a role in case and contact management including employers, congregate settings, primary care, assessment centres and education partners.

- Details around the role of these sectors can be found in existing guidance on the [Ministry of Health website](#) (outbreak guidance, sector-specific guidance, etc.).

## 2 Testing

PHUs must remain up to date on the latest provincial testing guidance. Table 1 outlines key documents/resources and their location. These documents are updated regularly.

**Table 1: Testing Reference Documents**

Document/Resource	Location	Notes
Case Definition	MOH Guidance for Health Sector - <a href="#">link</a>	The case definition is for surveillance purposes only.
Provincial Testing Guidance	MOH Guidance for the Health Sector - <a href="#">link</a>	This document outlines provincial testing guidance including considerations for specific settings/groups.
Quick Reference PH Guidance on Testing and Clearance	MOH Guidance for the Health Sector - <a href="#">link</a>	This document can help guide decision making on clearing/testing contacts of cases or individuals suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19
Considerations for Antigen Point-of-Care Testing	MOH Guidance for the Health Sector - <a href="#">link</a>	This document provides guidance for individuals or organizations conducting rapid antigen testing in Ontario.
COVID-19 Reference Document for Symptoms	MOH Guidance for the Health Sector - <a href="#">link</a>	This document outlines symptoms associated with COVID-19
PHO COVID-19 PCR Test Information Sheet	PHO Website - <a href="#">link</a>	This document outlines PCR-based test information and specimen collection guidelines for COVID-19
PHO COVID-19 Serology Test Information Sheet	PHO Website - <a href="#">link</a>	These documents outlines serology based test information and specimen collection guidelines for COVID-19
PHO COVID-19 Variant of Concern Surveillance Test Information Sheet	PHO Website - <a href="#">link</a>	These documents outline variant of concern surveillance testing guidelines for COVID-19

Document/Resource	Location	Notes
Appendix 8: Cases with Positive Serology Results and Management of Cases of MIS-C	MOH Guidance for the Health Sector - <a href="#">link</a>	This document provides guidance on both serology testing and MIS-C in children.
Appendix 9: Management of Individuals with Point-of-Care Results	MOH Guidance for the Health Sector - <a href="#">link</a>	This document provides guidance on how to manage individuals with results obtained from point-of-care testing technologies
Guidance for Employers Managing Workers with Symptoms within 48 Hours of COVID-19 Immunization	MOH COVID-19 Vaccine-Relevant Information - <a href="#">link</a>	This document provides guidance for employers, including health care settings and long-term care homes, on planning for and supporting workers who have recently received a COVID-19 vaccine.

Individuals who are tested and have a valid Ontario health card are able to access their results online through the [Ministry of Health online lab results viewer](#). Once the individual learns of their testing result, the portal also informs the individual about next steps.

## 2.1 Management of individuals awaiting testing results

### Preliminary positive results

- “Preliminary positive” results from a molecular [point-of-care \(POC\) assay](#) should be considered sufficient laboratory evidence to initiate case and contact management as appropriate as a probable case, while awaiting confirmatory parallel testing.
- Assays that have been approved to provide final results will report results as “positive” if positive.
- For interpretation of POC testing results, see the [Provincial Testing Guidance](#), and [Appendix 9: Management of Individuals with Point-of-Care Results](#).

### Symptomatic individuals

- All [fully immunized individuals](#) (≥14 days after a complete vaccine series) and [previously positive individuals](#) (cleared and within 90 days of their positive specimen result) who have symptoms of COVID-19 should be managed as indicated below (self-isolate and be tested for SARS-CoV-2 as soon as possible).

- PHUs may initiate public health case and contact management of symptomatic individuals with high-risk exposures who are awaiting test results, depending on the context of the symptoms, exposures, and exposure settings.
- For surveillance purposes, symptomatic individuals awaiting test results are not considered probable cases and will not need to be entered into CCM. Test results should be obtained before determining case classification.
- Symptomatic individuals should self-isolate while their test results are pending.
- Household members and other close contacts of a symptomatic individual should follow self-isolation guidance on the [Ontario COVID-19 Self-Assessment](#) site, the [COVID-19 School Screening Tool](#), or the [Workplace Screening tool](#), as applicable while the symptomatic individual is waiting for their test result. However, local PHUs may provide additional guidance within their region and based on the specific circumstances of the contact regarding self-isolation of household members, based on the local epidemiology and risk.
- All household members of [symptomatic individuals](#) are required to self-isolate until the symptomatic individual receives a negative COVID-19 test result or is provided an alternative diagnosis by a healthcare professional. If the household member is asymptomatic and fully immunized or previously positive within 90 days, they are not required to self-isolate.
- If the symptomatic individual does not seek COVID-19 testing, all household members advised to self-isolate by the PHU should self-isolate for 10 days from last exposure to that symptomatic individual.
  - Household members do NOT include those living in separate units in congregate living settings (for example: those who live in a separate unit within the same retirement home, or a separate self-contained basement suite in a house). PHUs should apply the specific congregate living advice guidance to individuals in self-isolation in those settings.
- Local PHUs may provide additional guidance regarding self-isolation of household members of a symptomatic individual, based on the local epidemiology and risk, and vaccination/previous positive status.

## Asymptomatic individuals

- Fully Immunized or Previously Positive individuals are not required to self-isolate while awaiting test results, unless otherwise instructed by local public health. See the [COVID-19 Fully Immunized and Previously Positive Individuals: Case, Contact and Outbreak Management Interim Guidance](#) for information.
- For surveillance purposes, asymptomatic individuals awaiting test results are **not** considered probable cases and should not be entered into CCM. Test results should be obtained before determining case classification.
- Asymptomatic individuals with high-risk exposure to a confirmed or probable case who are not fully immunized nor previously positive, should self-isolate while test results are pending and complete their full 10-day self-isolation in the event of negative test result(s). A positive result would require self-isolation until cleared.
- Asymptomatic individuals participating in approved screening/surveillance testing (as per the [Provincial Testing Guidance](#)) and who did not have a high-risk exposure do not need to self-isolate while their screening results are pending, but must self-isolate and obtain confirmatory testing immediately in the event of a positive screening test. Fully immunized individuals and previously positive individuals may be excluded from asymptomatic surveillance testing.
  - Household members of asymptomatic individuals participating in screening/surveillance testing who do not have a high-risk exposure do not need to self-isolate while the asymptomatic individual is awaiting screening testing results.

## 2.2 Management of Potential False Positive/False Negative/Indeterminate Results

**If there is concern about the accuracy of a test result (e.g., false negative, false positive), recollect a specimen from the individual for REPEAT TESTING as soon as possible. If repeat testing is not possible, use the original test result as part of the overall public health decision-making.**

**False Positives:** A positive test should prompt the appropriate public health actions, even if being investigated as a potential false positive. If the test is thought to be a false positive due to concerns about the test validity or low pre-test probability (including history of vaccination), recollect a specimen for **repeat testing**. Additional

information about the test (e.g., cycle threshold (Ct) value) is **not required** for public health decision-making.

Where true laboratory issues have been identified with previously issued positive results leading to an amended test result, follow PHO guidance on updating case status. See section 4 on [Case Management](#) for further detailed guidance on the management of asymptomatic positive results with low pre-test probability.

False positive results may occur when molecular point of care tests (POCT) are used in a low pre-test probability scenarios. For example, a symptomatic individual with a positive molecular POCT would generally be considered a confirmed case. However, if there was no prior high risk exposure and where incidence of COVID-19 is low, it may be recommended to seek immediate confirmatory testing following a molecular POCT positive result, as symptoms might be due to other causes (e.g., a circulating respiratory virus other than SARS-CoV-2).

**False Negatives:** A false negative test may occur in an infected individual tested too early in their incubation period, or in an infected individual at any time due to the sensitivity of the test. Actions should not be made solely on the basis of a negative test result. False reassurance from a negative test is a concern. **Where the clinical index of suspicion is high (e.g., based on clinical presentation and/or epidemiological context), a negative test does not rule out disease.** For individuals with worsening/progressing symptoms, consider **repeat testing**. Consideration should also be given to obtaining a lower respiratory sample (e.g., sputum or bronchoalveolar lavage in hospitalized patients). Individuals with a high-risk exposure to a case (e.g., exposure to a known case and/or outbreak) and test negative in their incubation period should continue with their full 10-day self-isolation or self-monitoring period.

**Investigations of Potential False Positive/False Negative Results:** Where there is concern of a false positive or false negative result based on an unexpected test result relative to the clinical and epidemiological information of the case, it is advised to **recollect a specimen for repeat testing as soon as possible**.

- Individuals should be managed using their initial specimen result until further information is available. If no additional testing information becomes available, the initial specimen result should be used for the overall public health assessment of the case.

- The repeat test on a subsequently collected specimen is not considered more accurate than the initial test; however, the combination of the two results provides additional context for interpreting the initial result.
- A second test on a recollected specimen that yields the same result as the first specimen is reassuring of the validity of the first result.
- A discordant second test needs to be interpreted in the context of clinical and epidemiological information to guide public health decision-making. Although this may represent a false positive initial test, it is known that testing of repeat specimen collections are often negative when an initial test is a true positive. This occurs when there is a low viral load in the initial specimen, which is close to the limit of detection of an assay, and will often not be reproducibly detectable from the repeat specimen.
- Repeat specimens should be collected as soon as possible after the first result to best inform public health management of the individual.
  - The shorter the interval between the first and second test, the quicker management decisions can be made for the case.
- There is no specific timeframe of when the repeat specimen should be collected; however, there is a diminishing return on the value of a repeat specimen collected several days after the initial specimen (the longer the interval between the initial and repeat test, the more likely the test will go from positive to negative).
- Interpretation of the repeat specimen should be within the overall context of the case, the implications for public health management, and the re-testing interval.
- In situations where a false positive laboratory result cannot be confirmed based on the laboratory investigation, but there is clinical and epidemiological evidence that the individual is unlikely to be currently infectious (e.g., high Ct value, asymptomatic, no known exposures, and immediately re-tests negative), public health case and contact management may be discontinued.

Further information on laboratory results and their [interpretation](#) is available on the [PHO website](#). PHUs may consult PHO and/or the testing laboratory for further information on the results in question to support the investigation of discordant results where there is concern of a potential false positive; however, timely public health case/contact management decision-making should not rely on this process.

**Indeterminate Results:** This may be due to low viral target quantity or may represent a false signal. Of note, not all assays have an indeterminate range.

- For public health follow-up purposes, an indeterminate result in an individual with symptoms compatible with COVID-19 is sufficient laboratory criteria for a probable case, and associated case and contact management practices.
- For clinical and public health purposes, asymptomatic individuals with indeterminate results do not meet the probable case definition. **Repeat the test as soon as possible.**

**Table 2: Managing Repeat Test Results for Asymptomatic Individuals with Initial Indeterminate Results**

<b>Repeat Test Result</b>	<b>Public Health Management</b>
Positive	Manage as a confirmed case (unless fully immunized – these individuals can be managed as per section <a href="#">4.6 “low pre-test probability positive”</a> ) The most cautious approach to public health management is to extend the period of communicability for contact tracing to 48 hours prior to specimen collection of the indeterminate result and specimen collection of the positive result for determining clearance.
Indeterminate/Negative	Does not meet case definition
Not available	Does not meet case definition – the individual should be recommended to retest as soon as possible, but if no retest is obtained, public health management is at the discretion of the PHU based on likelihood of individual being an actual case

### 3 Case and Contact Management

The identification of a probable or confirmed COVID-19 case triggers an investigation by the PHU to assess potential exposures within the 14 days prior to symptom onset and to evaluate potential transmission among close contacts.

Public health system capacity is an important criterion in decision making about other pandemic response activities (e.g., modification of public health measures to reduce cases and contacts). As outlined in the [surge support model](#), resources are available to support PHUs with case and contact management, including a centralized workforce trained to conduct contact monitoring and the virtual assistant tool. PHUs who are or who anticipate they will experience capacity



challenges in meeting case and contact management indicators must contact the MEOC at ([eooperations.moh@ontario.ca](mailto:eooperations.moh@ontario.ca)).

### **3.1 Virtual Assistant**

The Virtual Assistant (VA) is a case and contact management tool embedded in the CCM solution. The VA helps to support rapid notification of a positive result or an recent exposure to a COVID-19 positive case. It supports the distribution and collection of information regarding self-isolation, symptoms, and other details to support risk assessment. For cases, the VA can additionally be used to gather information on exposures and close contacts. Clients receive a text message with a link to the online tool. When they proceed, the VA offers a conversational flow, presenting cases and contacts with information and questions on COVID-19, self-isolation, symptoms and other important information. Responses are fed into CCM.

The VA can effectively support case investigators and contact tracers by reducing the CCM data entry requirements, supporting the initial case or contact phone call by priming the client in advance and providing automated support throughout the self-isolation period.

The VA can be used by PHUs at different stages of the investigation – at the beginning, to send rapid notification and collect information to support further prioritization and outreach; and during the case or contact's isolation period for ongoing monitoring of symptoms, provide reinforcement of isolation guidelines and additional support.

The VA should be used by PHUs wherever possible and should be integrated into existing workflows.

### **3.2 Case and Contact Management Indicators**

The MOH is working with local PHUs to enhance the provincial case and contact management program and has set certain indicators to ensure a full understanding of capacity issues/challenges and performance/success. Indicators are subject to change as the program evolves and are applicable to cases detected by assays with direct feed into the Ontario Laboratories Information System.

#### **Case Management Indicators:**

- % of cases are reached within 24 & 48 hours from when the PHU was notified of the case.

Currently the performance target for this indicator is that 90% of all cases are reached within 24 hours

### **Contact Management Indicators:**

- Number of newly identified high-risk exposure **contacts** that are successfully reached within 24 & 48 hours
  - Note: initial contact within 24 & 48 hours with high-risk exposure contacts in large group settings (e.g., workplaces, schools) may be satisfied by mass notification through email/VA or other communication means, with individual follow-up phone call afterwards.
  - Contacts who do not require self-isolation (e.g., fully immunized or previously positive), still require notification of being a high-risk contact and are included in contact management indicators.

## **4 Case Management**

Instructions to manage a **probable or confirmed case**, including those identified through molecular point-of-care testing (POCT) are outlined below. Case management instructions also apply to asymptomatic cases who test positive. For information on testing and diagnosis of asymptomatic individuals, PHUs should follow the guidance in the [COVID-19 Quick Reference Public Health Guidance on Testing and Clearance](#) document.

Where there is a high index of suspicion that an individual may be a COVID-19 case with a possible false-negative test result, re-testing is advised, and initiation of case management may be appropriate based on the health unit's risk assessment (see [Management of Potential False Positive/False Negative/Indeterminate Results for details](#)).

For information on management of cases confirmed by positive serology results, and for reports of multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C) in confirmed or probable cases of COVID-19, see [Appendix 8](#) for guidance.

The PHU interviews the case and/or household members/family members (i.e. if the case is too ill to be interviewed, has died, or is a child) as soon as possible to collect the information for case data entry and identify contacts with high risk exposures.

- As per data entry guidance, the PHU will complete the "investigation start date" as well as the case "reported date" which is the date the case was reported to the PHU by the laboratory. This information will be used for ministry reporting on the timeliness of case investigation initiation. The investigation start date is defined as the date the PHU first had contact with the case or proxy. Making contact with the case involves talking with the case/proxy and providing information to the case as appropriate.

Most PHU investigators conduct these interviews by telephone. However, for interviews conducted in person, the investigator should follow [recommended IPAC measures](#) when entering the case's environment (see [Guidance for Health Care Workers and Health Sector Employers](#) for further information on OHS and IPAC measures).

For cases who are hospitalized or living in settings outside of an individual/family home, the PHU can provide advice and guidance from setting-specific guidance documents found on the [MOH Guidance for the Health Sector](#) website.

PHUs must follow 4 general steps as part of case management which are detailed below: initial case reporting, case exposure assessment, case status monitoring, and case contact assessment.

## 4.1 Initial Case Reporting

Only **Probable and Confirmed** cases are reportable to PHAC and to the World Health Organization. Within 24 hours of the identification of a **confirmed** case in Ontario, the MOH will report the case to PHAC as part of the national notifiable disease reporting requirements, as well as in accordance with the International Health Regulations.

To meet this timeline, the PHU must enter the case into CCM within 24 hours. The initial contact to a confirmed case (by phone, or through VA) is to ensure the case is isolating and to gather information for entry into CCM. PHUs need to enter a minimum data set as dictated by the most recent Enhanced Surveillance Directive for each confirmed case (and probable cases where feasible). Virtual Assistant may be deployed as initial contact with a case, prior to the case investigator phone call, to prime the case for management; cases will be sent a text message to complete an online tool which provides information on COVID-19, self-isolation and includes a portal for contact identification, feeding into CCM.

\*Note: PHUs are no longer required to complete and submit the SARI case report form to PHO; however, this tool ([Appendix 1: Ontario's Severe Acute Respiratory Infection Case Report Form](#)) may still be used to guide data collection and data entry.

## 4.2 Case Exposure Assessment/Backward Contact Tracing

PHUs must assess for the most relevant acquisition exposure(s) in the 14 days prior to symptom onset or 14 days prior to positive specimen collection date if never symptomatic (see [Appendix 2](#) for a sample template). Ascertainment of exposures enables identification of locations/settings where transmission may be occurring, particularly if additional cases are associated with that location/setting and may also identify unrecognized chains of transmission and lead to more case finding through [backward contact tracing](#). The most relevant acquisition exposures (after household members) for entry are settings where the case spent the most time outside of the house, and where acquisition is most likely to have occurred based on the "3 C's" (close contact where physical distancing cannot be maintained, crowded spaces, and closed environments with poor ventilation). The most likely exposure setting(s) of acquisition that should be included (where applicable):

- workplace with in-person attendance and co-worker/client interactions,
- school, child care centre, camp, before and after care, and/or post-secondary institution,
- congregate living setting (including long-term care, retirement home, shelter, group home, rooming house, hostel),
- social events, gatherings and/or places of worship, or
- other settings where the case may have had close, prolonged, unprotected contact where transmission may have occurred.

Case exposure assessment should be completed for travel history out of the province, and history of close contact with someone who travelled out of the province.

Data entry of exposures should follow data entry guidance by PHO. Virtual Assistant can be used to support rapid case exposure assessment.

### Notification of individuals identified through Backward Contact Tracing

- For cases that do not have a known source of exposure (e.g., household member, part of an outbreak):

- PHUs should attempt to identify specific individuals/events that the case was exposed to in their most likely acquisition period (i.e., 2-7 days prior to their symptom onset/positive specimen collection, based on the median incubation period) where the exposure would meet criteria as “high risk of exposure” (see Table 4).
- This may include exposures such as (but not limited to) indoor social visits with friends/family, receipt of direct care/personal care services, close interactions with workplace colleagues.
- Mass settings (e.g., grocery stores, transit, public spaces) where specific individuals cannot be identified should not be included.
- These individuals are recommended to get tested as soon as possible (regardless of vaccination status) either by notification directly from the case or notification by the PHU (e.g. through a 1-way SMS message, or the use of the CCM email functionality, etc). The purpose of this testing is to identify possible source cases and/or other chains of transmission from a common source case.

These individuals do not require management as a contact to an infectious case and are not required to self-isolate.

### 4.3 Case Status Monitoring

Cases should be monitored for assessment of the illness, to ensure the ability to comply with self-isolation, and to determine when they can be cleared from self-isolation (see [Appendix 3](#) and [Appendix 4](#) for a sample template). At a minimum, cases must be called on the phone where feasible (or through VA) within 24 hours from when the PHU was notified of the case and should be contacted on day 5 and day 10 of the isolation period. In situations where a case is required to isolate for 20 days (as per the [Quick Reference Public Health Guidance on Testing and Clearance](#)), follow-up contact is required (e.g., day 5, day 10, day 15, and day 20) provided the case is discharged from hospital. All initial case contact must be done by phone call or VA, and methods of contact on the other days of self-isolation can include texts, emails, VA or phone calls. The determination of how to make contact on these days can be based on both PHU discretion/capacity and the preference of the case.

**PHUs should provide support for case isolation**, including consideration of:

- Use of isolation facilities
- Use of community supports and agencies
- [Psychosocial supports](#)

- Courier, delivery supports for food and necessities
- Emergency financial supports through [the provincial government](#) and local regions.
- Provincial unpaid job-protected [infectious disease emergency leave](#) and [federal government financial supports](#) including employment insurance.
- Additional resources available to support isolation through the [High Priority Communities strategy](#)

#### 4.4 Case Contact Assessment

PHUs must conduct forward contact tracing activities (see [Contact Management](#)) to identify close contacts of probable or confirmed cases with high-risk exposures while the case was likely infectious (see [Appendix 5](#) for a sample worksheet to conduct close contact tracing activities). In addition, PHUs should ask about any identifiable groups of low-risk contacts to inform consideration of targeted group communication as outlined in Table 6. PHUs should ask the case about any other prompts they have received to initiate the process of contact tracing (such as VA), any information received at an Assessment Centre, or from another care provider. PHUs must assess contacts based on exposure setting and risk of exposure based on the interaction with the case. Contacts identified by the case through the use of VA will be directly inserted into CCM for review by the case investigator. All contacts who are monitored by the VA are managed as high-risk.

#### 4.5 Case Isolation Period

Guidance for recommendations on isolation measures for probable and confirmed cases of COVID-19 is detailed in [Appendix 7](#). Detailed guidance on clearance from isolation is found in the [COVID-19 Quick Reference Public Health Guidance on Testing and Clearance](#) document.

- For cases who are **symptomatic at/around the time of their positive result**, the start of their isolation period is based on their symptom onset date.
- For cases who are **asymptomatic at the time of their positive result**, the start date of their isolation period is their positive specimen collection date.
- For cases who are quarantining international travellers, the start date of their isolation period is based on their positive collection date.

## 4.6 Asymptomatic Cases

- Asymptomatic individuals with positive test results and tested as a **high-risk of exposure contact** or as part of an **outbreak investigation** are generally **Confirmed Cases**, and do not require repeat testing.
- Asymptomatic individuals with positive test results and tested as part of other groups described in the [Provincial Testing Guidance](#) should generally be managed as a **confirmed case**.
- **Immediate repeat testing may be required** if there is an **asymptomatic individual with an initial positive result with low pre-test probability** of being a currently infectious case. Low pre-test probability is based on the PHU's assessment of risk from community exposure AND confirmation that they are not part of an outbreak and had no known close contact with a probable or confirmed case. Vaccination status may also be factored in the assessment of 'low pre-test probability'.
  - Isolate the case, but do not initiate contact management (or outbreak management) while repeat test is pending.
  - If repeat specimen is **positive/indeterminate**, continue to manage as a confirmed case, and initiate contact management.
  - If no repeat specimen is available, continue to manage as a confirmed case, and initiate contact management.
  - If repeat specimen is **negative** and individual remains asymptomatic, there is sufficient evidence that the case is *not currently infectious and can discontinue case management*.
    - In most situations, PHUs should update the case classification to '**Does not meet**' case definition. See PHO data entry guidance on entry of asymptomatic low pre-test probability cases.
    - Due to the wide availability of testing, the likelihood of a 'remote positive' is lower now than in the first wave of the pandemic. However, if a case has a history of COVID-19 compatible symptoms and/or history of high-risk exposure but was not tested at the time or subsequently until now, the PHU may determine that the current positive result is a 'remote positive' (i.e., was likely to have previously been infected and is no longer infectious). There is no specific evidence required for the PHU to make this assessment other than clinical history. PHUs should enter as a confirmed case and flag as a 'remote positive'. See PHO data entry guidance on entry of remote positives.

- **“Detected (low level)” Results:** The Public Health Ontario Laboratory added this qualifier to positive PCR results where the cycle threshold (Ct) value is  $\geq 35$  but not in the ‘indeterminate’ range (as applicable). This result is still a POSITIVE result and should be interpreted in the clinical and epidemiological context of the case. Some other laboratories may also report ‘low level positive’ results.
  - For symptomatic individuals or asymptomatic contacts with a high-risk exposure to a case/outbreak, no further testing is recommended if they have a “detected (low level)” result, and they should be managed as a case.
  - For an asymptomatic individual testing for screening/surveillance purposes, repeat testing as soon as possible is recommended while the individual is managed as a case. If repeat testing is negative, case and contact management may be discontinued if the health unit determines the case is unlikely to be currently infectious. The case should be counselled that they should continue public health measures as if they were never infected, including participating in surveillance/screening testing.

## 4.7 Case Recovery and Post-Clearance

Guidance for management of cases is detailed in [Appendix 7](#).

Once a case is **cleared from isolation** based on the [COVID-19 Quick Reference Public Health Guidance on Testing and Clearance](#) document, **self-isolation, and other droplet and contact measures where applicable, can be discontinued.**

All recovered cases should resume usual public health measures to prevent exposure and the potential for re-infection.

## 4.8 Self-Isolation of previous positives with new high-risk exposures

- Individuals who are previously positive and cleared and within 90 days of their initial positive result should follow [COVID-19 Fully Immunized and Previously Positive Individuals: Case, Contact and Outbreak Management Interim Guidance](#).
- It is likely that the duration of natural immunity from infection is 180 days or longer based on current evidence. However, due to emergence of VOCs, a more cautious approach is recommended at this time for the management of previously positive individuals >90 days from first infection with a new high risk exposure or part of an outbreak.



- Previously positive cases that are not within 90 days of their initial positive result and are not fully immunized are recommended to self-isolate for 10 days after a **new** high-risk exposure to a case unrelated to the previous exposure.

#### 4.9 Testing of previously cleared cases

- It is known that confirmed cases may continue to test positive with PCR, even after clearance from isolation and/or after receiving negative results, for several weeks to months after infection. Persistent detection >4 months from initial positive result has been reported in Ontario. See the MOH's [Quick Reference Public Health Guidance on Clearance](#), which includes information on when test-based clearance for work is and is not appropriate.
- Re-testing after clearance should be based on clinical indications for testing (e.g., in the context of new symptoms compatible with COVID-19), OR as directed in the context of new high-risk exposures or outbreak investigations.
- Individuals who have previously been diagnosed with and cleared of COVID-19 infection may resume asymptomatic surveillance testing after 90 days from their COVID-19 infection (based on the date of their positive result), and where surveillance testing is indicated based on the [Provincial Testing Guidance](#). If there is uncertainty about the validity of the initial COVID-19 infection (e.g., asymptomatic infection with high cycle threshold value result), may resume asymptomatic surveillance testing immediately.
  - Fully immunized individuals may be excluded from asymptomatic surveillance testing.
- Individuals who were previously a probable case or other situations where it is uncertain if the individual was a 'true' case **should continue to participate** in asymptomatic surveillance/screening testing (where applicable).
- Asymptomatic testing as a contact with high-risk exposure to a case or as part of an outbreak investigation may generate ongoing repeat positive results that may need to be investigated and/or repeated.

#### 4.10 Management of Previously Cleared Cases with New Positive Results

- New positive results after clearance may represent:
  - Ongoing positive from initial infection ("Re-positive"); OR
  - Re-infection/suspected re-infection ("Reinfection")

- If specimens from the first and subsequent positive are available and of sufficient Ct value (generally <30), specimens may be sent to PHO Laboratory for sequencing, with approval.
- If there is uncertainty as to whether a new positive after clearance represents a re-positive or a re-infection, **repeat testing as soon as possible**. Manage the case (including contact management) as currently infectious if re-infection is suspected.
- In the event a previously positive individual is also fully immunized, manage the individual as fully immunized as per the [COVID-19 Fully Immunized and Previously Positive Individuals: Case, Contact and Outbreak Management Interim Guidance](#).

### Re-positive

If there is evidence that the new positive result is likely to be ongoing persistent detection from the first infection, then no further public health case and contact management is required. Supporting evidence of a re-positive case includes: repeat testing is negative, both specimen(s) are close to limit of detection (e.g., cycle threshold >35 if tested at PHO laboratory).

### Re-infection

- Confirmed reinfections should meet the [Ontario Case Definition](#)
- **Cases that do NOT meet the case definition for confirmed re-infection, but where re-infection is suspected should still be managed as a currently infectious.**
- PHUs can request additional information from the testing laboratory on specimens from individuals suspected of re-infection (e.g., cycle threshold values, gene targets detected) to further inform [interpretation](#) of the results.
- See PHO Data Entry Guidance for entry of new positive results in previously cleared individuals. Do NOT enter a new case entry for suspected reinfection that do not meet the case definition.
- PHO is available for consultation on re-infection cases (whether confirmed or suspected) via [epir@oahpp.ca](mailto:epir@oahpp.ca)

# 5 Contact Management

See the [COVID-19 Fully Immunized and Previously Positive Individuals: Case, Contact and Outbreak Management Interim Guidance](#) for information on contact management for fully immunized individuals and previously positive individuals.

The PHU should consult [Table 4](#) to determine the exposure risk level of each contact of a COVID-19 case and [Table 5](#) to determine the follow-up public health actions.

- A close contact is defined as **an individual with a high-risk exposure to a confirmed or probable case.**
- In the context of VOC emergence, **enhanced contact management is being adopted.** This means having a **lower threshold for classifying contacts as high risk of exposure** and requiring self-isolation, based on the [risk assessment](#) of exposure.

PHUs must follow the guidance below when making initial contact, as well as for subsequent follow-up with high-risk exposure contacts, and low-risk exposure contacts, as appropriate.

## 5.1 Initial Contact

The PHU provides an introduction and informs the contact of the complete confidentiality of the interview process. In addition, the PHU provides information on testing recommendations, self-isolation, subsequent follow ups, counseling of their household members and inform them of resources available to support self-isolation or self-monitoring activities. The PHU must enter contact details into CCM within 24 hours. All contact information generated through VA should be reviewed and verified for completeness. See [table 5](#) for more details.

The PHU must recommend testing as per [Section 5.2](#) and ensure access to testing for:

- all high-risk exposure contacts regardless of symptoms and vaccination status (see '[Testing of Asymptomatic High-Risk Contacts for timing of testing](#)'), and
- all symptomatic contacts with a low-risk exposure.

All high-risk exposure contacts (including fully immunized and previously positive individuals), and low-risk exposure contacts, where possible, must be informed of

how to contact the PHU if they develop symptoms or have other questions. The PHU must advise contacts to call 911 if they require emergency care and that they should inform the paramedic services or health care provider(s) that they are a contact of a COVID-19 case. Only the individual who had a high-risk exposure to a confirmed case should be tested; their contacts (i.e., contacts of the high-risk exposure contact) are not recommended to be tested if they remain asymptomatic.

## 5.2 Testing and Self-Isolation of Asymptomatic High-Risk Contacts

- See the [COVID-19 Fully Immunized and Previously Positive Individuals: Case, Contact and Outbreak Management Interim Guidance](#) for information on contact management for fully immunized individuals and previously positive individuals.
- In the context of an outbreak, or if there has been ongoing exposure to a case over their period of communicability (e.g., household member), or if the contact had similar acquisition exposures as the case, high-risk exposure contacts are recommended to test immediately.
  - For contacts that test negative initially, (specimen collected on day 0 to day 6 of their self-isolation period), they are recommended to test again on or after day 7 of their 10-day self-isolation period. These individuals may end self-isolation after day 10 if they remain asymptomatic.
  - If the initial test was collected on or after day 7 of self-isolation, repeat testing is not required.
  - Repeat testing is recommended if the contact becomes symptomatic.
- If there has been a discrete exposure to a case (i.e., specific time(s) when the contact was exposed, such as during a visit), the contact should be advised to test on or after day 7 of self-isolation. Repeat testing is not required if the specimen was collected on or after day 7. However, repeat testing on or after day 7 of self-isolation is recommended clearance after day 10 if the initial specimen was collect on day 0-6 of self-isolation. Repeat testing is recommended if the contact becomes symptomatic.
  - These individuals may end self-isolation after day 10 if they remain asymptomatic.
- Close contacts with high risk exposures who are not fully immunized nor previously positive must be advised that they need to complete a full 10-day self-isolation period regardless of receiving a negative result, as they may still be incubating.

- In outbreak situations where uncontrolled transmission is ongoing or suspected, or at the discretion of the PHU when there is heightened concern for transmission from high-risk contacts, a more restrictive self-isolation period for contacts that are not fully immunized nor previously positive within 90 days may be applied. Specifically, if a negative test is not collected on/after day 7 of self-isolation, then the self-isolation period can be extended for an additional 10 days after completing the required 10-day quarantine, (i.e., 20 days from last exposure) to account for the maximum period that the contact may be infectious if they became a case on day 10. If a negative test is eventually obtained, release from self-isolation may occur earlier than day 20, but no earlier than day 10.
  - When PHUs decide to implement this contact management strategy, they should ensure the contact is advised of this requirement at the initial communication with the contact and have sufficient resources to follow-up with the contact.

### 5.3 Subsequent Follow-Up

The PHU may use the **Close Contact Daily Clinical Update Form** in [Appendix 6](#) to monitor high risk contacts. The PHU must follow-up at least twice in the monitoring period (e.g., initial call, then day 5 and 10 after last known unprotected exposure) and where resources allow, PHUs can consider providing more frequent (e.g. every other day) communication to the asymptomatic high-risk exposure contact (e.g. via VA/email/text/phone). Follow up on day 5 and 10 for individuals who were not directed to self-isolate (i.e. fully vaccinated or previously positive) is not required but may be completed as capacity allows at the discretion of the PHU. The PHUs should determine the frequency of communication to the asymptomatic, high-risk exposure contact based on a risk assessment and available staffing resources. If PHU staffing resources are limited, see Modified [CCM Surge Support Model](#) for details on workforce supports available.

As part of the follow-up phone call and any additional contact assessments for high-risk exposure contacts the PHU must assess:

- Onset of symptoms since last assessment;
- Reported compliance with self-isolation;
- Needs in order to comply with self-isolation, referring supports as required to help to enable successful isolation.
- If testing was performed as recommended and result (verification if possible or verbal confirmation).

PHUs should provide support for contacts with self-isolation measures, including consideration of:

- Use of isolation facilities
- Use of community supports and agencies
- [Psychosocial supports](#)
- Accessibility to/awareness of testing facilities
- Courier, delivery supports for food and necessities
- Emergency financial supports through the [provincial government](#) and local regions.
- Provincial unpaid job-protected [infectious disease emergency leave](#) and [federal government financial supports](#) including employment insurance.

Should a contact develop symptoms, the PHU or contact tracer supports should actively monitor (daily) the contact while awaiting test results. High-risk exposure contacts that **develop symptoms should be managed as probable cases** and have contact tracing initiated prior to testing results being available. Further contact management may be discontinued if the probable case subsequently tests negative. Health units should follow PHO data entry guidance, and not enter these contacts as probable cases if test results are pending.

#### **5.4 Household Members of High-Risk Exposure Contacts**

PHUs should counsel all contacts with a high risk exposure to a case to tell their household members that are not fully immunized nor previously positive to **stay home** except for essential reasons for the duration of the contact's isolation period.

Essential reasons include: attending school/child care/work and essential errands such as, obtaining groceries, attending medical appointments or picking up prescriptions.

This messaging is recommended to alert the household members that they are at increased risk of exposure based on sharing a household with a self-isolating individual and reinforce adherence to strict public health prevention measures.

- Public health units are not expected to collect individual level information on the household members of the quarantining contact.
- Household members should not be entered as contacts.

- Public health units are not expected to provide individual level advice to the household members or assess their individual situation and ability to comply with their stay at home requirement.
- Household members include those living with, or having similar interactions with the contact (e.g., caregivers).
- Household members do NOT include those living in congregate living settings. Public health units should apply the specific congregate living advice guidance to individuals in self-isolation in those settings.
- Household members are NOT recommended to be tested for COVID-19 unless the high-risk of exposure contact tests positive or if the household members develops symptoms.

### 5.5 Period of Communicability for Contact Follow-Up

Contact tracing for cases who were **symptomatic** at/around the time of positive specimen collection extends from 48 hours prior to symptom onset to when the case began self-isolating (or was cleared from isolation if never self-isolated).

For cases who were **asymptomatic** at the time of positive specimen collection date, Table 3 below can be referenced.

**Table 3: Contact Follow-up when Case is Asymptomatic at Time of Positive Specimen Collection**

Symptom Onset	Contact Tracing Period	Notes
Case had no symptoms at/around time of testing and no known high-risk exposure in 14 days prior to positive specimen collection	Extends from 48 hours prior to positive specimen collection to date to when case began self isolating.	

Symptom Onset	Contact Tracing Period	Notes
Case had no symptoms at/around time of testing AND has a known high-risk exposure to a confirmed case in 14 days prior to positive specimen collection	Extends from 48 hours (minimum incubation period) after initial high-risk exposure to date when case began self isolating	Example: Case 1 is symptomatic January 1 and exposes Case 2 on January 2. Case 2 is asymptomatic with specimen collection date on Jan 7. Case 2's period of communicability should start from Jan 4 (48 hours after exposure to Case 1), instead of Jan 5 (48 hours prior to positive specimen collection). Only high-risk exposures to known confirmed cases should extend the period of communicability of the asymptomatic case.
Case's symptoms resolved prior to specimen collection date and case has a known high-risk exposure in 14 days prior to symptom onset	Extends from 48 hours prior to symptom onset to when case began self-isolating (or was cleared from isolation if never self-isolated).	For symptoms that occurred >4 weeks prior to specimen collection date, or where there is uncertainty about the relatedness of prior symptoms to the current positive test result, extending contact follow-up period to 48 hours prior to symptom onset date is at the discretion of the PHU.
Symptoms develop after positive specimen collection date	Extends from 48 hours prior to positive specimen collection date to when case began self-isolating (or was cleared from isolation if never self-isolated).	

## 5.6 Self-Isolation/Self-Monitoring for Contacts

While the isolation of asymptomatic contacts is technically termed "quarantine", the common use of "self-isolation" is used to refer to both symptomatic/infected and exposed individuals. Therefore, we have adopted the language of "self-isolation" for asymptomatic close contacts who are COVID-19 negative or not tested for ease of understanding, in addition to those who are symptomatic and/or infected.

The purpose of self-isolation is to prevent the risk of spread in the event a contact becomes infected prior to recognizing they are infectious. Due to varying degrees of



risk posed by different exposures, contacts can be categorized into two levels of risk exposure with corresponding requirements for self-isolation: high-risk, and low-risk contacts. **Only individuals with high-risk exposures are considered close contacts.**

- [Table 4](#) details contacts by their exposure setting and exposure type.
- [Table 5](#) details description of required PHU follow-up.

Details of the risk assessment approach to determining whether a contact had a high or low risk exposure to a case are available in the [Focus On: Risk Assessment Approach for COVID-19 Contact Tracing](#). This background resource provides an overview of the factors related to the case, contact and nature of the exposure that must be integrated to determine the overall level of risk for the contact.

The period of self-isolation or self-monitoring for the contact of a case is 10 days following the last known unprotected exposure to an infectious case. High risk contacts that have been instructed to self-isolate by public health may end self-isolation after day 10.

In some situations (see [section 5.2](#)) the period of self-isolation can be extended up to 20 days (10 day quarantine as a contact + 10 days isolation as a potential case) OR until a negative test result is obtained.

**Household, or similar, contacts** with ongoing exposure to the case:

- Cases should self-isolate as much as possible within the household, and the case should wear a mask (medical mask, if available) if tolerated when in the same room as others. Their close household contacts should also be encouraged to wear a mask when in the same room indoors, particularly when physical distancing from the case is not possible in the home, or when <2 m apart outdoors (e.g., on property).
- Vulnerable contacts in the household should consider options to reduce risk of exposure as much as possible (e.g., staying elsewhere).
- Where self-isolation is not possible within the household, consider alternate living arrangements for the case or contacts to reduce risk of transmission.
- Where alternate living arrangements are not available or practical, and self-isolation is reasonably maintained, last date of exposure to the case should be based on when the case started to self-isolate. Reasonable self-isolation includes consistent masking by the case and household members when in the same room, physical distancing as much as possible, frequent hand hygiene, and appropriate environmental cleaning (e.g., high touch surfaces)

- Household members **who are not fully immunized nor previously positive and cannot effectively self-isolate** from the case (e.g., due to care needs, interactions with/between young children) should continue to self-isolate for 10 days from last exposure to the case while the case was infectious. If **additional members of the household become cases**, duration of isolation for remaining asymptomatic household members would require a repeat assessment of exposure as above. If there has been significant ongoing exposure to the subsequent case, the asymptomatic household member may need to continue their self-isolation period based on their last exposure to the new case while that case was infectious or until effective self-isolation occurred (which ever is soonest).
- In **households with ongoing transmission**, and prolongation of self-isolation for asymptomatic household members, repeat testing among asymptomatic household members may be considered to ensure no undetected asymptomatic transmission and inform duration of self-isolation.

**Table 4: Contact Management Based on Exposure Setting and Type**

Exposure Setting	Exposure Type	Exposure Risk Level
Household (includes other congregate settings)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anyone living in the same household<sup>1</sup>, while the case <b>was infectious</b>.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ This may include members of an extended family, roommates, boarders, 'couch surfers' etc.</li> <li>○ This may include people who provided care for the case (e.g., bathing, toileting, dressing, feeding etc.)</li> <li>○ This may include congregate settings (e.g., dormitories, shelters, group homes, detention centres, child/daycare centres) where direct contact (&lt;2 meters) is occurring in shared rooms/living spaces. (Follow <a href="#">Ministry of Health guidance</a> for outbreak management in congregate living settings; if an outbreak is declared, outbreak measures should guide contact management).</li> <li>○ This EXCLUDES individuals who live in a completely separate area/unit (e.g. self-contained basement apartment).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	High risk exposure - self-isolate
Community/ <a href="#">Workplaces/</a> <a href="#">Schools</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Had direct contact with infectious body fluids of the case (e.g., coughed on or sneezed on)</li> <li>• Had other close<sup>2</sup>, prolonged<sup>3</sup>, and/or unprotected<sup>4</sup> contact.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ E.g., contact with a case within 2 metres for more than a transient amount of time, particularly if case and/or contact was not masked.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• See Table 5 for management of mass exposures where individual level contact follow-up is not feasible (e.g. bus/train exposures)</li> </ul>	High risk exposure – self-isolate

Exposure Setting	Exposure Type	Exposure Risk Level
Community/ <a href="#">Workplaces</a> / <a href="#">Schools</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact had consistent and appropriate protected<sup>4</sup> contact for the duration of interaction and without other factors that would increase the overall risk of exposure (e.g., very prolonged duration of exposure, See <a href="#">Risk Assessment Approach for COVID-19 Contact Tracing</a> for details)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Consistent mask use (surgical/procedure or <a href="#">non-medical</a>) by both case and contact may be considered protected<sup>4</sup> contact</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Low risk exposure – self-monitor
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only transient interactions (e.g., walking by the case or being briefly in the same room, grocery clerk passes bag and hands touch)</li> </ul>	Notification not required
Healthcare (including all locations where health care is provided, e.g., community, acute care, long-term care)	<b>Patient is the case:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HCW and/or support staff who provided direct care for the case, or who had other similar close physical contact (i.e., &lt; 2 metres from patient for more than transient duration of time) <b>without</b> consistent and appropriate use of personal protective equipment<sup>4</sup> (PPE)</li> <li>• Other patients in the same semi-private/ward room</li> <li>• Other patients/visitors who had close<sup>2</sup>, prolonged<sup>3</sup> contact with the patient case</li> </ul>	High risk exposure – self-isolate
	<b>HCW is the case:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All patients who had close<sup>2</sup> prolonged<sup>3</sup> contact to the HCW.<sup>5</sup></li> <li>• All co-workers who had unprotected<sup>4</sup> close<sup>2</sup> and/or prolonged<sup>3</sup> contact with the HCW (e.g., within 2 metres in an enclosed common area)</li> </ul>	High risk exposure – self-isolate

Exposure Setting	Exposure Type	Exposure Risk Level
Healthcare (including all locations where health care is provided, e.g., community, acute care, long-term care)	<p><b>Patient is the case:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Healthcare worker and/or support staff who provided direct care for the case, or who had other similar close physical contact (i.e., &lt; 2 metres from patient for more than transient duration of time) <b>with</b> consistent and appropriate use of PPE<sup>4</sup></li> </ul>	Low risk exposure- self-monitor
	<p><b>HCW is the case:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All patients exposed to the HCW but where contact was neither close<sup>2</sup> nor prolonged<sup>3</sup>, and the HCW appropriately wore a mask for source control for the entire duration<sup>4,5</sup> (e.g., dropping a food tray in a room)</li> <li>All co-workers with consistent and appropriate PPE use during close<sup>2</sup> or prolonged<sup>3</sup> contact with the HCW (e.g., within 2 metres in an enclosed common area)</li> </ul>	Low risk exposure – self-monitor
	<p><b>Patient or HCW is the case:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only transient interactions (e.g., walking by the case, being briefly in the same room)</li> </ul>	Notification not required
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Laboratory worker processing COVID-19 specimens from case without appropriate PPE (including accidental exposures where appropriate PPE was breached).<sup>4</sup></li> </ul>	High risk exposure – self-isolate
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Laboratory worker processing COVID-19 specimens from case <b>with</b> appropriate PPE.<sup>4</sup></li> </ul>	Low risk exposure – self-monitor

Exposure Setting	Exposure Type	Exposure Risk Level
Air Conveyance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Passengers or crew seated within 2 meters of the case (approximately two seats in all directions, depending on type of aircraft/conveyance and seating).<sup>6</sup></li> <li>• Other passengers/crew with close prolonged<sup>3</sup> contact or direct contact with infectious body fluids.</li> <li>• Consideration may be given to determining all passengers and crew of the flight at high-risk of exposure based on risk of contact in terminal, and during boarding/off-loading procedures.</li> </ul>	High risk exposure – self-isolate
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crew members who do not meet criteria above.</li> </ul>	Low risk exposure – self-monitor
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other passengers seated elsewhere in cabin/car as case who do not meet above criteria.</li> </ul>	Low risk exposure – self-monitor
Travel to affected area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traveled outside of Canada in past 14 days and not exempt from Federal Quarantine.<sup>7</sup>.</li> </ul>	High risk exposure – self-isolate

For further details see: [Focus On: Risk Assessment Approach for COVID-19 Contact Tracing](#)

<sup>1</sup>**Household Members:** Household members have the highest risk of transmission and should almost always be considered high risk of exposure. Individuals who live in a self-contained separate unit (e.g. basement suite) may be considered low risk exposure.

<sup>2</sup>**Close Contact:** Maintenance of physical distancing measures (> 2 metres) for the entire duration of exposure decreases the risk of transmission. However, **physical distancing of 2 metres does not eliminate the risk of transmission**, particularly in confined indoor and poorly ventilated spaces and during exercise, talking loudly, yelling or singing activities.

<sup>3</sup>**Prolonged Contact:** As part of the individual risk assessment, consider the cumulative duration and nature of the contact's exposure (e.g., a longer exposure

time/cumulative time of exposures likely increases the risk, an outdoor only exposure likely decreases the risk, whereas exposure in a small, closed, or poorly ventilated space may increase the risk even if distanced or masked), the case's symptoms (coughing or severe illness likely increases exposure risk), physical interaction (e.g., hugging, kissing), and whether personal protective equipment by the contact (see below – Footnote 4) or source control by the case was used. To aid contact follow-up prioritization, prolonged exposure duration may be defined as lasting cumulatively more than **15 minutes; however**, data are insufficient to precisely define the duration of time that constitutes a prolonged exposure, and exposures of <15 minutes may still be considered high risk exposures depending on the context of the contact/exposure. Transient exposures may in some circumstance be sufficient for transmission depending on the interaction, but are generally a low priority for contact follow-up.

#### **<sup>4</sup> PPE, Barriers and Source Control Use:**

**Use of PPE**, if worn consistently and appropriately for the nature of the interaction and for the entire duration of exposure, is generally considered a lower risk exposure for the contact. It is important to assess the context of the interactions with the case and other factors that may increase risk of exposure (e.g., physical touching, prolonged duration, confined space with poor ventilation). See [Focus On: Risk Assessment Approach for COVID-19 Contact Tracing](#) and the Public Health Ontario [Technical Brief on IPAC Recommendations for Use of Personal Protective Equipment for Care of Individuals with Suspect or Confirmed COVID-19](#) for more information.

#### **Masks**

Fit-tested N95 respirators, instead of medical masks, are required for PPE for aerosol-generating procedures. [Non-medical masks](#) are NOT considered PPE in health care settings (see [Public Health Ontario Technical Brief](#)).

Surgical/procedure masks or well-constructed, well-fitting non-medical masks may be considered sufficient as source control or PPE use in non-health care settings as part of the overall risk assessment, and depending on the nature of the exposure.

#### **Eye Protection**

- Transmission through the conjunctiva is possible, particularly when in close contact with an unmasked case.
  - Eye protection is part of PPE in [health care settings](#) when providing direct care for a known or suspected patient with COVID-19, therefore,

lack of eye protection is generally considered a high risk exposure in this specific scenario. However, lack of eye protection may not constitute a high risk exposure depending on the nature of contact with the patient and likelihood of direct droplet exposure.

- For all other interactions, lack of eye protection generally does not constitute a high risk exposure, if both case and contact are masked. However, depending on the nature of contact with the case and likelihood of direct droplet exposure (e.g., caregiver holding infected child, close prolonged contact with an unmasked case in an indoor environment), lack of eye protection may be considered a high risk exposure.

### **Gowns and Gloves**

- While gowns and gloves are part of [PPE in health care settings](#) when caring for a known or suspected patient with COVID-19, lack of gowns/gloves generally do not constitute a high risk exposure.

### **Barriers**

Other [appropriate barriers](#), such as plexiglass barriers may also lower the risk if they provide sufficient and consistent coverage between the case and contact.

<sup>5</sup> **Patient/Resident Exposures from HCW cases:** universal medical masking by HCWs is expected to reduce the risk of exposure to their patients/residents if the HCW becomes a case. However, in circumstances of close, prolonged contact, source control by the case does not eliminate risk of exposure and follow-up of exposed patients/residents and co-workers as contacts with high risk of exposure is warranted. This is especially important to reduce the risk of ongoing nosocomial transmission when patients/residents remain within health care/congregate living settings.

<sup>6</sup> **Air Travel:** Medical or non-medical masks are required on all air travel and most other public conveyances. Due to increased transmissibility of emerging VOCs, use of masks in community settings are no longer included in the contact risk assessment.

<sup>7</sup> **Federal Quarantine:** Assessment is made by the Canadian Border Services Agency for quarantine exemptions for international travellers. PHU follow-up is not required for airplane/conveyance contacts already under federal quarantine, unless the traveller tests positive in which case the PHU would be responsible for routine case and contact management.



## 5.7 COVID Alert Exposure Notification App

Ontario has launched the exposure notification app, COVID Alert. This app is meant to support and augment public health's existing contact tracing efforts by quickly identifying new contacts that may not have been easily identified through traditional case and contact management methods. Exposure notifications are not a substitute for traditional contact tracing, but the app can expand reach and rapidly notify unknown contacts and augment information available to contact tracers.

In the event a PHU is contacted by an individual who has received an exposure notification alert, they should be directed to seek testing and if they are not fully immunized nor previously positive, [self-isolate](#) pending test results. If the individual tests positive, manage as a case.

If the individual receives a negative test result they should [self-monitor](#) for 10 days from when they received the notification and should seek re-testing if symptoms develop. If this same individual is later identified through traditional case and contact tracing, they must follow the advice of the public health authority which may include self-isolation and re-testing depending on the assessment of public health.

More information on COVID Alert can be found at the [Ontario COVID Alert website](#).

### **Table 5: Contact Self-Isolation and Self-Monitoring by Risk Level**

Note: If an outbreak is declared (e.g., in a workplace, congregate living setting, long-term care home, acute care, child care), relevant [Ministry of Health guidance](#) on outbreak measures apply and should guide management of contacts and may exceed recommendations for low-risk contacts of non-outbreak cases listed here.

See the [COVID-19 Fully Immunized and Previously Positive Individuals: Case, Contact and Outbreak Management Interim Guidance](#) for information on contact management for fully immunized individuals and previously positive individuals.

**Table 5A: High Risk Exposure**

<b>Actions for the Individual</b>	<b>Public Health Monitoring/Activities</b>
<p>Self-Isolate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not attend school or work</li> <li>• Avoid close contact with others, including those within your home, as much as possible, and particularly those vulnerable to severe infection</li> <li>• Follow advice in <a href="#">self-isolation fact sheet</a></li> <li>• Have a supply of procedure/surgical or non-medical masks available should close contact with others be unavoidable</li> <li>• Postpone elective health care until the end of monitoring period</li> <li>• Use a private vehicle if need to attend a medical appointment. Where a personal private vehicle is not available, private hired vehicle (e.g., taxi) may be used while wearing a procedure/surgical mask and sitting in the rear passenger seat with the window open (weather permitting). Do not take public transportation.</li> <li>• Remain reachable for monitoring by local PHU</li> <li>• Discuss any travel plans with local PHU. The PHU can seek consultation with the MEOC for inter-provincial travel plans as required</li> <li>• If symptoms develop, ensure self-isolation immediately, and seek testing</li> </ul>	<p>Initial contact (e.g., by phone) is required to provide information on self-isolation and who to call if become symptomatic.</p> <p>Note: initial contact within 24 &amp; 48 hours with high-risk exposure contacts. In large group settings (e.g., workplaces, schools) may be satisfied by mass notification through email/other communication means, with individual follow-up phone call afterwards.</p> <p>Follow-up at the middle and end of the self-isolation/self-monitoring period (e.g., days 5 and 10) is required.</p> <p>More frequent monitoring should be considered, as resources allow and where more frequent follow-up is warranted, and can be via VA/email/text/phone at discretion of PHU and based on preference of contact.</p> <p>Consider providing a thermometer or assessing other needs/supports to facilitate self-isolation and monitoring of symptoms</p> <p>Provide fact sheet on <a href="#">Self-isolation</a></p> <p>Ensure contact is advised of recommendation for asymptomatic testing within their self-isolation period (including re-testing on or after day 7 of self-isolation if initially tested on day 0-6 of self-isolation), with the potential for the self-isolation to be extended up to 20 days if a negative test is not obtained on/after day 7 at the discretion of the PHU.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PHU may follow up with contacts to verify testing result as capacity allows.</li> </ul>

<b>Actions for the Individual</b>	<b>Public Health Monitoring/Activities</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PHUs have the discretion to enhance their contact management process at the direction of their Medical Officer of Health/capacity.</li> </ul> <p>Ensure contact is advised of recommendation for re-testing if contact reports symptoms, and manage as a probable case if testing is refused/cannot be performed</p> <p>Counsel contacts to tell their household members to stay home except for essential reasons (household members can attend child care/school/work, medical appointments, obtain groceries/medications), while the contact is quarantining.</p> <p>For high-risk exposures in settings where individual level follow-up is not feasible due to the inability to identify and directly communicate with potential contacts (e.g., exposures on public transit), PHUs may rely on/utilize other mechanisms for contact notification (e.g., the COVID Alert App, transparently post transit routes/times, public advisory).</p>

**Table 5B: Low Risk Exposure**

<b>Actions for the Individual</b>	<b>Public Health Monitoring/Activities</b>
<p>Follow guidance on core public health measures recommended for everyone at all times including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self-monitoring for symptoms of COVID-19,</li> <li>• Seeking <a href="#">assessment and testing if symptomatic</a>, and</li> <li>• Self-isolating and seek testing if symptoms develop, as per provincial guidance.</li> </ul>	<p>Where individuals self-identify to the PHU with information that indicates a possible high-risk exposure, the PHU must conduct an individual-level risk assessment.</p> <p>Communications to low risk individuals/groups should include information about symptoms, self-monitoring, how to self-isolate if symptoms develop and how to contact the local PHU. This should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information on <a href="#">Self-monitoring</a>,</li> <li>• Emphasizing need to be able to self-isolate immediately and seek testing if symptoms develop.</li> <li>• Advising HCWs to inform their employer/institution of their exposure.</li> </ul> <p>Where identifiable individuals/groups with low-risk contact are known to the PHU, the PHU should consider providing targeted and timely communication to low risk contacts, with supports from MOH if needed, and proportionate to the risk of exposure. Options for contacting low-risk contacts may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• working with schools/institutions to send a letter</li> <li>• working with employers to send a letter to co-workers/clients in the same area in the workplace;</li> <li>• working with community/ religious leaders to inform other attendees of community activities/services;</li> <li>• use of public service announcements</li> <li>• public lists of exposure locations</li> <li>• initial phone calls/text blasts/Robo calls</li> </ul> <p>Notification of contacts with a very low risk of exposure is generally not recommended (e.g., stores/service locations where the case only had brief interactions with other customers/staff).</p>

## Table 6: Managing Testing Results in Contacts Who Are Not Fully Immunized or Previously Positive

See the [COVID-19 Fully Immunized and Previously Positive Individuals: Case, Contact and Outbreak Management Interim Guidance](#) for information on contact management for fully immunized individuals and previously positive individuals.

<b>Exposure Type</b>	<b>Testing Result</b>	<b>Instructions for PHU</b>
High-Risk	Positive	Manage as a confirmed case
	Negative	Continue managing as high-risk exposure contact, including advising continued self-isolation until 10 days from last exposure.  Facilitate re-testing if initially tested on day 0-6 of self-isolation or if symptoms develop or worsen. These individuals may end self-isolation after 10 days.
	Never Tested (i.e., refused testing)	Manage as a high-risk exposure contact and ensure completion of required self-isolation period (at least 10 days and up to 20 days from last exposure at the PHU discretion).  If symptomatic, manage as a probable case where feasible including case and contact management.

Exposure Type	Testing Result	Instructions for PHU
Low-Risk	Positive	Manage as a confirmed case.
	Negative	<p>While asymptomatic contacts with low-risk exposures are not advised to test unless they become symptomatic (as per MOH testing guidance for the general public), if they happen to test negative in their incubation period, they should be advised by the testing facility to continue to follow guidance on core public health measures recommended for everyone at all times, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self-monitoring for symptoms of COVID-19,</li> <li>• Self-isolating if symptoms develop; and</li> <li>• Seeking <a href="#">assessment and testing</a></li> </ul> <p>If the PHU happens to be aware of these individuals, they may reinforce messaging.</p> <p>Advise re-testing if symptoms develop, or worsen.</p>
	Never Tested	Not applicable, as no individual follow up is required, and PHU unlikely to be aware of this situation. If the PHU happens to be aware of these individuals, they must reinforce that symptomatic individuals should be tested.

## 6 Travellers from Outside of Canada

On February 21, 2021, the Government of Canada put [emergency measures](#) in place that require a [mandatory 14-day self-isolation](#) (or quarantine period) and pre-entry, arrival, and mid-quarantine (day 8) tests for travellers from outside of Canada. Effective July 5, 2021, fully vaccinated travellers meeting [specific requirements](#), are exempt from quarantine, and not required to stay at a government-authorized hotel or take the day 8 test.

See the Government of Canada's [website](#) for requirements for non-exempt travellers arriving by air. Effective August 9, 2021, the three-night government authorized hotel stay requirement will be eliminated for all travellers arriving by air.

Travellers arriving by land are not required to quarantine in a federal government approved accommodation (e.g. hotel) while waiting for the results of their arrival test. After taking the arrival test, these travellers may proceed to a suitable place of quarantine (e.g., their home). If travellers quarantine plans are unsuitable or they have symptoms, they will be relocated to a federal designated quarantine facility.

Ontario recommends that travellers who are not exempt from federal quarantine should tell their household members who are also not fully immunized to stay home except for essential reasons (household members can attend child care/school/work, medical appointments, obtain groceries/medications) while the return traveller is quarantining.

All individuals permitted to enter Canada should follow the [Federal Emergency Orders](#) and public health and workplace rules, self-monitor for symptoms and immediately self-isolate should symptoms develop. Some travellers entering Canada may also be approved for a limited release from quarantine restrictions for [compassionate reasons](#).

Ontario strongly recommends that HCW's that are not fully immunized quarantine (self-isolate) for 10 days after international travel, whenever it is possible. If a HCW

that is not fully immunized is required to work within 10 days of returning from travel, they may do so with specific precautions. Refer to the [How to Self-isolate while Working fact sheet](#). HCWs should contact their employer's department for occupational health and safety for specific advice.

Compliance with the orders is managed by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) with support from other agencies, including the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA), local police, the OPP, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). In addition, in some regions private security have been contracted to assist with in-person follow-up. Local PHUs do not have a direct role in enforcement of the Quarantine Orders but are able to provide support and information (e.g., requirements of self-isolation) and, if required, refer cases to the local police. PHUs may also contact the Compliance and Enforcement office at PHAC : [phac.isolation-isolement.aspc@canada.ca](mailto:phac.isolation-isolement.aspc@canada.ca) to request a quarantine breach assessment.

Should an individual require essential health care during the 14-day quarantine period, these individuals should be managed as having a high risk exposure requiring isolation. They should be managed in consultation with the local PHU and local health care providers, including IPAC. Where possible, travellers should receive healthcare remotely through services including Telehealth Ontario and [Seethedoctor.ca](http://Seethedoctor.ca)

Travellers who develop symptoms or are exposed to another person under Federal Quarantine Orders who develop signs and symptoms during the 14-day quarantine period are required to extend their quarantine period for an additional 14 days from symptom onset date. Travellers may leave self-isolation in order to be tested. In doing so, they should take appropriate precautions including wearing a well-fitting, well constructed non-medical mask and avoiding public transportation. If they test negative, they should continue to self-isolate since COVID-19 may develop later. If travellers test positive, they should seek advice from a health care provider regarding the next steps.

Asymptomatic travellers must follow testing requirements including arrival and mid quarantine (day 8) tests. Please note, the day 8 test is [self-administered](#) and does not require the traveller to leave quarantine (self-isolation).

If an asymptomatic traveller presents for testing at an assessment centre, the traveller should be tested.



NOTE: The Emergency Orders regarding travel are updated regularly. For the latest information regarding self-isolation requirements, see the [Government of Canada website](#).

**Table 7: Assessment and Management of Asymptomatic Travellers**

Travel outside of Canada in the past 14 days and not exempt from Federal Quarantine	Consider as 'High risk exposure'. Follow Table 6 – 'High risk exposure'.
Travel within Canada	Individuals who have travelled within Canada are not required to self-isolate, but should self-monitor for symptoms for 10 days from their return. If any individuals have COVID-19 exposure concerns and self-identify to their PHU as having travelled within Canada, the PHU should assess the individual's exposure history to determine whether they should be managed as a high or low risk exposure contact. as per Table 5.

### 6.1 Contact tracing for airplane passengers

The most timely way to share information about potential exposures on conveyances is through public posting of flight/conveyance information, and notification to the airline for informing crew members. This applies to both international and domestic flights.

PHUs should send a travel notification task **via CCM** to PHO if they identify a flight with a confirmed case who meets any of the following criteria for travel during their period of communicability: symptomatic before or during travel; symptomatic within 48 hours after the flight or; if asymptomatic, has tested positive within 48 hours of the flight. Information to include in the comment box include:

- Flight number, date of flight, city of departure and country of origin

In addition to information for [public posting](#) of flight/conveyance information, PHUs may be required to provide further information regarding international travel for PHAC to process an International Jurisdiction Notification, if the acquisition exposure occurred in another country, whether or not the case is a Canadian national; detailed travel information while abroad (i.e., accommodation information, potential

exposures) will be required for appropriate contact follow up in the other jurisdiction.

PHO will provide reported flight exposure information to PHAC who will then post the details on the "[Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\): Locations where you may have been exposed to COVID-19](#)" webpage. PHAC will also directly notify the air carrier of this exposure.

As per Table 4 (Footnote 7), PHU follow-up for international flights where travellers are under federal quarantine is not required, unless the traveller tests positive during their 14-day quarantine period.

Direct notification of travellers on domestic flights by the public health unit is generally not recommended due to the incomplete and untimely information from the flight manifest.

## 6.2 Contact tracing for train/bus/cruise ship passengers

PHAC will post travel notifications for individuals who travelled by train, bus or cruise ship during their period of communicability. PHUs should send a travel notification task **via CCM** to PHO, as described in Section 6.1, for individuals who travelled by these conveyances, if they meet the criteria in Section 6.1 for airline passengers.

## 7 Tools

PHUs may use the following tools to conduct case and contact management activities. Additional resources and appendices may be added to support case and contact management activities, and updated documents can be found on the [Ministry of Health website](#).

- [Appendix 1: Ontario's Severe Acute Respiratory Infection \(SARI\) Case Report Form](#) – PHUs may use this form to help guide their case interview and collection of information from probable and confirmed cases or their proxies. PHUs must enter all cases and contacts in CCM.

- [Appendix 2: Routine Activities Prompt Worksheet for Cases](#) – PHUs may use this sample worksheet (or a similar tool) to identify potential exposures that may have led to disease acquisition in a case. Along with the SARI Case Report Form in Appendix 1, this worksheet can also be used to interview the case or their proxy to collect detailed information and to investigate potential exposures in the 14 days before onset of symptoms.
- [Appendix 3: Daily Clinical Update Form for a Case Managed in an Acute Care Setting](#) and [Appendix 4: Daily Clinical Update Form for a Case Managed in a Household Setting](#) – PHUs may use these sample forms (or a similar tool) to monitor the health status of a probable or confirmed case until they are cleared.
- [Appendix 5: Close Contact Tracing Worksheet](#) – PHUs may use this sample worksheet (or a similar tool) to identify close contacts of a probable or confirmed case.
- [Appendix 6: Daily Contact Clinical Update Form](#) – PHUs may use this sample form (or a similar tool) to follow-up and monitor contacts with high-risk exposures.
- [Appendix 7: Self-Isolation for COVID-19 Cases or Other Individuals in the Household](#) – This guidance can be used to support individuals undergoing testing (with symptoms or known contact to a confirmed or probable case), anyone being asked to self-isolate, and others in the household of a case.
- [Appendix 8: Serology Testing and MIS-C](#) – This can be used to provide guidance on cases with positive serology results as well as cases with multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C)
- [Appendix 9: Management of Individuals with Point-of-Care Results](#) – This document provides guidance on how to manage individuals with results obtained from point-of-care (rapid) testing technologies.
- [Appendix 10: Surge Support Model](#) – This document outlines supports available to PHUs for case and contact management and how/when to access them. It also provides a sample triage tool to assist with distributing cases/contacts across the operational response and provides several tables of modifications to case and contact management practice based on PHU caseload.
- [Appendix 11: High Risk Contact Flow Chart](#) – This diagram provides a public-facing overview of recommendations for high risk contacts and their household members based on vaccination status.

## 8 Additional Resources

- [Public Health Ontario Public Resources](#)
- Public Health Agency of Canada's [Public Health Management of Cases and Contacts for COVID-19](#)
- Public Health Agency of Canada's [IPAC for COVID-19: Interim Guidance for Home Care Settings](#)
- Public Health Agency of Canada's [COVID-19: For Health Professionals](#) website
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's [COVID-19 website](#)
- European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control's [COVID-19 website](#)
- Ministry of Health's [COVID-19 website](#)
- Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee's [Tools for Preparedness: Triage, Screening and Patient Management of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus \(MERS-CoV\) Infections in Acute Care Settings](#)
- [Government of Canada's COVID-19 Affected Areas list](#)
- World Health Organization's [Disease Outbreak News website](#), and [COVID-19 website](#)

## 9 Document History

Revision Date	Document Section	Description of Revisions
January 30 2020		Document was created.
February 5 2020	Contact Management – Public Health Advice	Language included to reflect policy change: self-isolation of 14 days for those returning from Hubei province and for close contacts of cases.
February 7, 2020	Throughout Document	Updates to reflect changes to case definition and self-isolation
February 12 2020	Case and Contact Management  Travellers from Affected Areas	Updates to language around risk level and corresponding level of self isolation/ self monitoring  Addition of Table 3
March 3 2020	Updates throughout document	Updates based on new case definition and evolving advice based on travel history of patient
March 25 2020	Updates throughout document	Change in Purpose section; guidance on testing, explanation on case definition, assessment and management of persons suspected of COVID-19, Information on pets
April 15 2020	Updates throughout document	Updates on case definition description, travellers from outside of Canada, link to other guidance (e.g. provincial testing), updates to streamline language throughout
June 23 2020	Updates throughout document	Major updates to most sections, addition of several reference tables, moved to 2 risk exposure levels: low and high risk, moved appendices to become separate documents.

<b>Revision Date</b>	<b>Document Section</b>	<b>Description of Revisions</b>
September 8 2020	Updates throughout document	Additional information on asymptomatic cases with low pre-test probability; new appendix 8; new table: Assessing Scenario Likelihood in Asymptomatic Cases with Low Pre-Test Probability; minor update to travel section; new information on COVID Alert
October 9 2020	Updates throughout document	Updates on frequency/nature of contact with low/high risk contacts Updated messaging to align with new guidance on case clearance timelines.
December 1 2020	Updates throughout document	New section on Re-Infection; updates to case isolation for asymptomatic cases; updates to contact follow-up; further detail on risk assessment for contact tracing; removal of Non-Medical Mask section; addition of Appendix 9; updated section on Travellers from Outside of Canada
January 12 2021	Updates throughout document	Specify collection of vaccine information, clarify that vaccination does not change case & contact management at this time, updates to informing PHO of flight notifications, updates to federal quarantine guidance, clarification to extension of POC of some asymptomatic cases, clarify guidance on PPE for HCW exposures, clarify guidance on patient exposures to HCW cases

Revision Date	Document Section	Description of Revisions
May 6 2021	Updates throughout document	New section on preliminary positive results from point-of-care assays; new section for testing of previously cleared cases (re-positive, re-infection) and self-isolation of previous positives with new high-risk exposures; new section on enhanced case management for VOC screen positive cases; new section on testing of asymptomatic high-risk contacts; updates to contact management in the context of VOC emergence (lower threshold for classifying contacts as HR exposure and requiring self-isolation); travellers from outside of Canada update.
August 11 2021	Updates throughout the document	Incorporation of fully immunized/previously positive individuals; New section on notification of individuals identified through Backward Contact Tracing; Updated section: self-isolation of previous positives with new high-risk exposures (10 day self isolation); Updated section: Testing and Self-Isolation of Asymptomatic High-Risk Contacts; Follow up for high risk contacts is now day 5 and 10 of self-isolation; Section 5.2 update; Updated table 4 and modified footnote 4 on PPE and eye protection. ;Updated section: Travellers from Outside of Canada; New section: Contact tracing for train/bus/cruise ship passengers.