

CONTACTS OF COVID-19 CASES - ADDITIONAL SAFEGUARDS FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE STAFF 21 DECEMBER 2021

Checklist for employer to complete with staff member

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

Checklist – Employer with employee		
	Check	Mitigation
1	Does the staff member have COVID-19 symptoms? Symptoms – A high temperature A new, continuous cough A loss, or change to sense of taste or smell Other symptoms suggestive of COVID-19.	Yes – should attend for PCR and self-isolate No – <i>move to Q2</i>
2	Is the employee fully vaccinated with two doses of MHRA approved vaccine with the second dose at least 14 days prior to the date of exposure?	No – staff member should self-isolate for 10 days. Yes – <i>move to Q3.</i>
3	Have they had a booster dose at least 14 days prior to the date of exposure?	Yes – move to Q4 No – Move to Q8
4	Does the individual live with or have ongoing contact with the person who tested positive for COVID-19?	No – go to question 5 Yes – The worker can still return to work however , as transmission in households is more likely than in other settings consideration must be given as to whether there is ongoing close contact in the household. Particularly careful adherence to all mitigations is required. In some circumstances a decision to redeploy the worker to a lower risk area may be appropriate. Go to step 5.
5	Have they taken a PCR test following the exposure?	Yes - PCR negative Can return to work provided they adhere to all mitigations set out in this guidance. Yes – <i>move to Q6.</i>

		<p>Yes - PCR positive – They self-isolate for 10 days.</p> <p>No PCR or result unknown – Need to arrange PCR and have negative result in order to be eligible for return to work.</p>
6	Does the staff member know where to access lateral flow devices and are able to use them appropriately?	<p>Yes – staff member should take a daily lateral flow test following receipt of the negative PCR result (including on the same day they receive that result) until the tenth day after the last date of contact with the positive case. The lateral flow should be taken before leaving for work each day. Staff should report their result to their line manager and online at https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result Move to Q7.</p> <p>No – Line manager should facilitate access to LFDs prior to return to work and staff member should test as above – <i>move to Q7.</i></p>
7	Is the staff member working with patients deemed to be immunosuppressed or at higher risk of serious illness should they contract COVID?	<p>No – there are no specific additional requirements on these workers</p> <p>Yes – Consideration should be given to the level of risk and whether staff member should be re-deployed to another area. Assessment and decision to be taken by senior manager.</p>
8	<p><i>Only applies to staff who have had two doses of vaccine and are eligible for the booster but have not yet received it.</i></p> <p>Is there a serious risk to service continuity and the safe provision of care as a result of workforce shortages?</p>	<p>Yes - following a risk assessment, staff who are eligible for a booster but have not yet received it can return to work if they are identified as close contacts of COVID-19 cases and provided the suite of mitigations set out in this letter are followed. This is a time limited exemption and will only be applied until 14 January 2022. A senior manager must undertake the risk assessment in relation to service continuity and ensure all mitigations are followed as set out above.</p> <p>No – staff who are eligible for the booster but who have not yet received it should not return to work.</p>