COVID-19 casual contact - Fact sheet for casual contacts

NSW Health

COVID-19 casual contact (casual contact) and COVID-19 close contact (close contact) are different. Casual contacts are those who have had close contact with someone who has COVID-19, but who do not meet the criteria for close contact.

Casual contact is defined as:
- Being within 1.5 metres of a person with COVID-19 for a cumulative total of at least 15 minutes in a 24-hour period
- Continuous or prolonged casual contact, e.g., working in close contact with someone who has COVID-19

Casual contacts should get tested within 72 hours (or as soon as possible) and isolate until the result of their test is received.

If you are a casual contact, you should get tested for COVID-19 if you develop symptoms of COVID-19, even if you get a negative test result.

Self-management after exposure to COVID-19 is not recommended for casual contacts. You should stay at home and isolate until your test result is received. If your test result is positive, you will be contacted by the NSW Health COVID-19 tracing team.

For more information, please visit health.nsw.gov.au/coronavirus.

NSW Health
COVID-19: What to do if you’re a contact of a COVID-19 positive case

If you’ve been in close contact with a COVID-19 positive case, you’ll need to self-isolate for 14 days. If you have any COVID-19 symptoms, please call the NSW Health COVID-19 hotline on 1300 606 055 for advice.

If you have any questions, please call the NSW Health Public Health Unit on 1300 606 055.