

Staff return to work guidance - High-risk community sites and community healthcare sites

Note that there is no need for testing if an exposed person has previously tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 35 days (5 weeks), except on specific advice from their treating doctor. They should still stay home if they have respiratory symptoms.

	Lower risk contacts	Higher risk and household contacts
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Follow work health and safety advice• Follow COVID Smart behaviours• Monitor for symptoms• Test and stay home if symptomatic• Appropriate PPE should be worn according to task/setting and facility guidance	<p>As for lower risk contacts with the addition of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have an initial RAT if asymptomatic and remaining at work <p>Things to consider for household or high-risk contacts returning to work within 7 days of exposure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If the person is essential to service delivery• Risk mitigation options (see below)• If the person remains asymptomatic• If their initial test returned a negative result <p>Workplace risk mitigation options (continue for up to 14 days after exposure):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wear a face mask on site, including in staff only spaces• Avoid using shared tearoom or confined space with other workers while unmasked• Avoid working in areas where there are people especially at-risk of severe disease (e.g. unvaccinated residents of RACFs). Consider redeploying to a lower risk area where possible• Limit working to a single site or area where possible• Second daily RAT up to day 7 post exposure or day 7 after the last positive test of a person in the household• Consider staying home for 7 days post exposure

High risk community sites include residential aged care facilities, and residential accommodation facilities that support people who require frequent, close personal care and who are at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19. Community health care sites include general practice, allied health, pharmacy and home care services

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