

Advice for businesses and organisations

Please note that this is generalised information and each case will be individually managed

Employee/ contractor/ volunteer tests positive for COVID-19

This advice outlines actions for businesses to take in response to a positive COVID-19 test result by an employee, contractor or volunteer (positive case) that has been in their business

Staff member/ contractor/ volunteer (positive case)

Anyone awaiting COVID-19 test results is instructed to isolate pending the result i.e. must not attend work, and inform the appropriate person in the business of this. If a test result is positive for COVID-19, the positive case must advise the appropriate person in the business that they have tested positive for COVID-19.

Anyone diagnosed with COVID-19 is isolated and must follow the directions of public health authorities.

Identified contacts do not need a clearance certificate to return to the business. If they do not have any symptoms there is no testing that can be done to predict whether or not a person will become unwell. It is not appropriate to issue a 'medical clearance certificate.' Once 14 days of self-isolation have passed, a person has passed the time in which they would become sick had they been exposed to COVID-19.

The appropriate person is to identify when the positive result was received and when the positive case went into isolation and is also to establish the staff member's /contractor/volunteer's location(s) during the time or days before they went into isolation. The appropriate person is to identify and provide contact details at the request of public health authorities, where potential close contact exposure to a known COVID-19 case has been ascertained by SA Health.

Contacts and contact tracing

The appropriate person is to advise the Communicable Disease Control Branch (CDCB) of SA Health at 1300 232 272, HealthCommunicableDiseases@sa.gov.au of the positive case.

A business must work with CDCB to rapidly trace any close contacts of an infected person to minimise further risk of spread. Also prompt tracing of close contacts is essential to minimise any disruption to production.

CDCB will undertake all or any personnel contact tracing as required. To enable this to occur expeditiously the appropriate person will need to provide CDCB the following information as soon as possible, because the contact tracing cannot start without it:

- > A detailed list of personnel and contact information for each area / section and different shifts (if there are multiple shifts)

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- > Also previous rosters showing where and with whom the positive case may have been and who they would have had contact.
- > Level of contact for each person on list, with the positive case (e.g. 15mins face to face, 2hrs in shared space).

The time frame for CDCB to undertake the contact tracing will depend on:

- > the number of people that have been in contact with the staff member /contractor with the positive result and
- > how fast the business provides the information required by CDCB.

All identified close contacts of the positive case must follow the directions of the public health authorities, which may mean the business needs to enact continuity plans where multiple staff members are required to self-isolate.

Closure and cleaning

What's needed will differ case by case depending on the staff member/contractor/volunteer location(s) during the time or days before the positive case went into isolation.

All areas/sections of the business where the positive case has worked will need to close and undergo cleaning as per the SA environmental cleaning guidelines (link below):

<https://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/Public+Content/SA+Health+Internet/Resources/Novel+Coronavirus+Environmental+Management+Fact+Sheet>

The closure period will differ case by case and is dependent on the time taken to undertake **contact tracing** and **cleaning**.

Re-opening

Any decision on reopening the business/part of the business that was closed will occur by consultation with the CDCB case manager.

For more information

Communicable Disease Control Branch
Department for Health and Wellbeing
SA Health

Telephone: 1300 232 272

www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/COVID2019

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