

Reviewed 23rd December 2020

Advice for CALHN Health Care Workers (HCW)

HCW with COVID-19 symptoms

All HCW with fever (≥ 37.5) or chills, cough, sore throat, runny nose, acute blocked nose (congestion), shortness of breath, loss of taste and/or smell should self-isolate and present for COVID-19 testing. Other clinical symptom: fatigue, muscle/joint pain, nausea/vomiting, loss of appetite, conjunctivitis, chest pain.

- If COVID-19 test is POSITIVE then HCW should isolate as directed, and immediately advise Clinical Worker Health Services (CWHS). Contact tracing of patients and /or staff may be required.
- If COVID-19 test is NEGATIVE then HCW can return to work once symptoms have resolved.

HCW returning from New South Wales (NSW)

- HCW returning from NSW who have visited any of the **High Community Transmission Zones (HCTZ)** as listed on [SA Health - Current Health Alert on NSW site](#) are required to [self-quarantine](#) for 14 days commencing on the last day you were in a HCTZ. You must get a [COVID-19 test](#) immediately within 24 hours, on day 5, and day 12.
- In addition HCWs who have been in the Greater Sydney region between 11th December and 12.01 am 21 December are advised to contact Clinical Worker Health around specific instructions based on the individual risk assessment and advice on return to work at CALHN.
- HCWs who travelled to South Australia from **any other location in New South Wales (other than a prohibited location or HCTZ)** on or after 12.01 am 17 December 2020 must get a [COVID-19 test](#) immediately within 24 hours, on day 5, and day 12. HCWs are not required to isolate while awaiting their COVID-19 test results (unless you have symptoms, in which case you must self-isolate).

Please speak to your manager to advice of self-isolation. Manager to contact CALHN Clinical Worker Health Services (CWHS) for advise.

Close contact* with a confirmed positive case of COVID-19

Any HCW who have had close contact with a confirmed positive COVID-19 case are to follow directions for self-isolation provided by CDCB. This includes where a patient is a case and the required PPE was not worn by the staff. Where partial PPE was worn contact CWHS so a risk assessment can be undertaken.

Close contact* with a person under investigation by COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL BRANCH (CDCB) for COVID-19

All HCW who have had close contact with a suspected COVID-19 case and are asymptomatic are not to attend work pending test results of the suspected case. Clinical Worker Health must clear the HCW before returning to work.

Close contact* with a person with respiratory symptoms but no epidemiological risk factors for Covid-19

All HCW who have had close contact with another person who has no risk factors for Covid-19 but who is awaiting results of a COVID-19 test can attend work until the swab result of the symptomatic person is reported, provided the HCW is asymptomatic. If the result is positive follow directions from CDCB, isolate at home and inform CWHS.

Recent travel to any overseas countries

Any HCW who have returned from any overseas travel should not undertake work and undertake COVID testing in accordance with [SA Health](#) and self-isolate for 14 days from arrival in South Australia (SA). New Zealand is now exempt.

Recent travel interstate

All CALHN HCW planning on travel to other states please visit the relevant states websites for detailed information [State and Territory Information](#)

HCW self-isolation reporting

If you are a healthcare worker or another staff member who is undergoing COVID testing (excluding surveillance screening) or have had close patient contact in a hospital/health care setting you should not attend work and need to self-report using the [Self-isolation reporting form](#)

Masks

In line with [Emergency Directive no.16](#), which came into effect from 23rd December 2020, masks are no longer mandatory for people present in health care settings and people working in personal care services, but it is recommended to wear a mask if you are unable to [physically distance](#). Wearing a face mask protects you, patients and the community by providing an additional physical barrier to coronavirus (COVID-19) for more information review [CALHN MASK Advice Factsheet for Healthcare Workers \(HCW\)](#)

For further information and assistance Healthcare Workers can contact:

- [South Australian Government COVID-19 website](#)
- Clinical Worker Health Royal Adelaide Hospital Mon– Fri, 8am -4pm Phone: 0401 689 039 or email Health.RAHworkerhealthservice@sa.gov.au
- The Queen Elizabeth Hospital Mon- Fri, 8am-4pm Phone: 0423 824 010 or email: HealthTQEHworkerhealthservice@sa.gov.au
- After hours urgent HCW related queries Phone: 0438 976 481
- The Royal Adelaide Hospital COVID-19 clinic operating times 9am – 5pm daily
- The Queen Elizabeth Hospital COVID-19 clinic operating times 9am – 5pm daily

Close contact

- A close contact is defined as requiring:
 - face-to-face contact in any setting with a confirmed or probable case, for greater than 15 minutes cumulative over the course of a week, in the period extending from 72 hours before onset of symptoms in the confirmed or probable case, **OR**
 - sharing of a closed space with a confirmed or probable case for a prolonged period (e.g. more than 2 hours) in the period extending from 72 hours before onset of symptoms in the confirmed or probable case.

Suspect case:

- A person who meets the following clinical AND epidemiological criteria for COVID-19
- **Clinical criteria:** fever (≥ 37.5) **OR** history of fever (e.g. night sweats, chills) **OR** acute respiratory infection (e.g. cough, shortness of breath, sore throat) **OR** loss of taste and/or smell

Epidemiological criteria:

- Close contact with confirmed or probable case, international travel, passenger or crew on cruise ship, HealthCare, Aged or residential care worker/staff with direct patient contact, people who live in or have travelled through a geographically localised area with elevated risk of community transmission as defined by public health authorities