



COVID19
WORKPLACE
GUIDANCE

November 8, 2021



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This message brought to you by the Barbados Ministry of Health and Wellness

What to Do if You Have a Confirmed **COVID-19** Positive Worker or a Worker who Has Been Exposed to a Confirmed Case of COVID-19 or a worker who is ill?

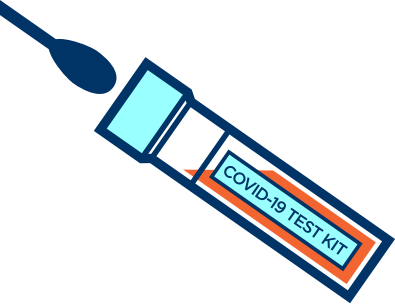
The Benefit of Guidance on Suspected or Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 in the Workplace.

It is important that guidance is provided to business places to complement the efforts of contact tracing and thereby reduce the risk of spread through measures which include testing for COVID-19 and quarantining.

KEY POINTS

- 1 The approach to each business place may vary based on several factors such as protocols being followed, the number of cases, when cases were last in the workplace, number of likely close contacts, level of compliance with infection prevention and control measures by staff, etc.
- 2 A risk assessment should be done for each workplace to determine the level of contact persons had with the positive case and if they would be classified as primary or secondary contacts.
- 3 Testing: A negative test result at least 5 days after being in contact with the confirmed case is needed to clear a person who has been exposed. A test done before this will have to be repeated.
- 4 A Contact Tracing Officer may contact the business and coordinate the testing and quarantine period for the staff.
- 5 A list of all employees who work closely together should be created in case it is needed. This list should include the names of the staff, their addresses, telephone numbers and other contact information e.g., ID numbers.
- 6 Initially, only primary contacts need to be tested and quarantine at home. The need to quarantine at an alternative location depends on an individual's circumstances.
- 7 Infection, prevention and control protocols are to be practiced at all business houses at all times and these practises need to be re-enforced periodically.





CLOSE OR PRIMARY CONTACTS

WHAT IS A PRIMARY CONTACT?

A person is usually considered to be a close or primary contact if they had interactions with a confirmed case, without protective equipment, for more than 15 minutes, at a distance of less than 6 feet.

Employees identified as close or primary contacts should be tested and should self-quarantine until cleared or confirmed as positive by a healthcare provider.

IF SOMEONE IS SICK

Employees who arrive at work with symptoms or who become ill during the day should report to their supervisors. These employees are to be advised to have an assessment done by a healthcare provider and in the case of flu-like symptoms a COVID-19 test is required.

Those who become sick while away from work are to inform the supervisor and stay away from work until cleared by a healthcare provider. Healthcare providers would normally provide documentation in support of return to work.

IF EXPOSED TO A CONFIRMED CASE OUTSIDE OF WORK

Once they are no longer in contact with the confirmed case, they should quarantine for 5 days and then test. If this test result is negative, they are clear to return to work.



IF EXPOSED TO A CONFIRMED CASE THAT YOU LIVE WITH

If the confirmed case is taken to an isolation facility or the employee can go to an approved quarantine facility, from the point of separation, the employee should quarantine for 5 days and then test. If the confirmed case stays in the home and facilities need to be shared, the employee (once asymptomatic) should test 5 days after the confirmed case is discharged

DISCHARGE AND RETURN TO WORK

Once a person has been discharged from isolation they are fit to return to work unless indicated otherwise. **PCR tests should not be done after a person has been officially discharged from isolation as such persons are likely to give false positive result which could be misleading.**



COVID-19 HOTLINE:
536 4500



CLEANING AND DISINFECTION

- If someone becomes sick at the workplace (within the last 24 hours), then the spaces that the person interacted with should be cleaned and disinfected.
- Persons assigned to do cleaning should ideally let at least an hour pass before entering the area.
- The focus of efforts should be on any areas occupied by the person who is sick or diagnosed with COVID-19 which had not yet been cleaned and disinfected.
- Appropriate Personal Protective Equipment should be worn during the cleaning processes. The area to be cleaned should have open doors and windows, and fans, or heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) to improve air quality. If the area needs to be vacuumed it is preferable to use equipment with high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter and bags.

CLEANING GUIDANCE

Please see the table below which shows guidance on what to do depending on the time that has passed pertaining to cleaning:

Less than 24 hours	Clean and disinfect the space.
More than 24 hours	Cleaning is enough. You may choose to also disinfect depending on certain conditions or everyday practices required by your facility.
More than 3 days	No additional cleaning (beyond regular cleaning practices).



COVID-19 HOTLINE:
536 4500



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

**COVID-19 CALL CENTRE FOR HOME
QUARANTINE AND HOME ISOLATION:
536-1800**

**COVID-19 HOTLINE:
536-4500**

**COVID-19 MONITORING UNIT
536-3865**