

Care Home Isolation Periods taken from :-

Guidance **COVID-19: management of staff and exposed patients or residents in health and social care settings** Updated 17 December 2020

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-management-of-exposed-healthcare-workers-and-patients-in-hospital-settings/covid-19-management-of-exposed-healthcare-workers-and-patients-in-hospital-settings> (Accessed 18/12/2020)

We are aware that the legal position for contacts changed on the 14th December to 10 days isolation for all contacts of cases guidance produced by the UK Infection Prevention and Control cell, PHE and Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) recommends that the isolation period for resident and patient contacts in care homes and hospitals should remain at 14 days. For care home residents this 14-day contact-isolation period is the same as that for new residents admitted from elsewhere.

Situation / Paragraph	Isolation Guidance
Positive Cases	
Staff who are PCR positive for SARS-CoV-2 - Symptomatic Staff	Staff who have tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) in the community or at work should self-isolate for at least 10 days after illness onset. The isolation period includes the day their symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they do not have symptoms) and the next 10 full days. If, however, they have been admitted to hospital they should be isolated in hospital (or continue to self-isolate on discharge) for 14 days from their first positive PCR test result. This is because COVID-19 cases admitted to hospital will have more severe disease and are more likely to have pre-existing conditions, such as severe immunosuppression. For the same reasons, the 14-day isolation rule also applies to other (non-staff) COVID-19 cases admitted to hospital
Staff who are PCR positive for SARS-CoV-2 - Symptomatic Staff	Asymptomatic staff who have not been hospitalised and have tested positive for SARS-CoV-2, should self-isolate for 10 days following their first positive PCR test.
Contacts	
If staff have been notified that they are a contact of a confirmed case in a health and care setting.	If health and social care staff are providing direct care to a patient or a resident with COVID-19 and are wearing the correct PPE in accordance with the current IPC guidance, they will not be considered as a contact for the purposes of contact tracing and isolation. They will also not be required to self-isolate for 10 days (organisations have agreed the standards for PPE specification, fit testing and regimes of use for clinical and care activities).
If staff have been notified that they are a contact of a confirmed case in the community	If staff have been notified as a contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the community (outside the health or social care setting or their place of work), they should inform their line manager and self-isolate for 10 days , in line with guidance for non-household contacts .
Resident exposures in care settings	Residents who are known to have been exposed to a confirmed COVID-19 patient (an exposure similar to a household setting), should be isolated or cohorted only with residents who do not have COVID-19 symptoms but also have been exposed to COVID-19 residents, until 14 days after last exposure. This also applies to residents who have previously recovered from COVID-19 and have been exposed to a confirmed COVID-19 case.

Regulations and Amendment to the Regulations:-

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2020/1518/regulation/2/made>

https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2020/1518/pdfs/ukxi_20201518_en.pdf