



# COVID-19 Management of contacts\* of cases in the school setting



\*If contact is an adult, including teachers, please refer to [adult close contact protocols](#) and information on [restricted movement](#)

## A Public Health Risk Assessment should be applied to ascertain level of exposure and necessary restrictions

This algorithm is for contact tracing of confirmed cases, however if a child is sent for a test (suspected case) the **whole house should restrict movements until the result is known**. Children or teachers in the child's pod in school/childcare facility generally do not need to restrict movements unless the index child tests positive for COVID-19 or unless it is deemed necessary by Public Health Risk Assessment.

Confirmed index case: Child (3 months—13<sup>th</sup> birthday)

Confirmed index case: Child 13 years or older

Confirmed index case: Adult

Contact:  
Child 3 months—13<sup>th</sup> birthday

Contact:  
Child 13 years or older

Contact:  
Child (primary or  
secondary school age)

Household setting<sup>1</sup>:  
Contact with person of  
any age in the household

School/childcare setting:  
Pod=facility cohorting arrangement

Pod

Non-Pod

School/childcare setting:  
Due to the different networks of  
secondary school children, a Public  
Health Risk Assessment should ascertain  
the level of exposure in a school setting

Household setting<sup>1</sup>:  
Contact with person of  
any age in the household

School/childcare  
setting<sup>2</sup>

Close contact

Close contact

Casual contact<sup>3</sup>

All contacts should follow procedures  
for [casual contacts](#) until Public Health  
Risk Assessment has been performed<sup>4</sup>

Close contact

Casual contact actions: Attendance at school can continue with monitoring  
for symptoms a priority and appropriate IPC restrictions maintained

### Test for COVID-19 and restrict movement for 14 days after last exposure

If the child with COVID-19 can't be isolated at home and there is an **ongoing exposure risk**, household contacts should restrict movements for **17 days** from the onset of index case symptoms (or date of test if asymptomatic). **Note:** contacts of contacts do not need to restrict movements.

If deemed close contact by Public Health Risk Assessment  
e.g. if physical distancing could not be adhered to

If all [appropriate measures](#) were taken by the index adult, then no additional restrictions apply for any person who is not classified as a close contact

1. A Public Health Risk Assessment should be undertaken for complex cases, such as, households that cannot adhere to self-isolation measures.
2. A Public Health Risk Assessment should be used to determine if physical distancing and IPC measures were maintained in school/childcare setting with adult index case.
3. Unless a Public Health Risk Assessment indicates a more significant exposure, warranting "close contact" restrictions for children outside of Pod arrangements, for example, close friendship networks, school activities.
4. A Risk Assessment conducted by **Public Health** is required to ascertain the level of exposure in these situations and some contacts may be classified as close contacts following Public Health Risk Assessment.