

Contact management

The department will conduct contact tracing for confirmed cases in the community and will seek assistance from a health service in relation to any contact tracing required for health service staff.

Close contacts

Self-quarantine

The following groups are now required to self-quarantine:

- People who were in mainland China or Iran for 14 days since they were last in mainland China.
- In addition to the quarantine requirements for mainland China and Iran, returned travellers from high risk countries who work in a special risk setting (such as healthcare) should not return to work until 14 days since leaving the high risk country.
- Close contacts of confirmed cases until 14 days after last close contact with the confirmed case.

Self-quarantine means remaining at home except in cases of medical emergency. This means a person recommended to self-quarantine:

- Must not visit public settings or mass gatherings.
- Must not use public transport.
- Must not attend settings like health services, residential aged care facilities or educational settings.

This requirement for people who are in quarantine not to attend health services, includes a requirement that they do not attend a family member who is a confirmed case in a Victorian health service.

Health services and GPs are not required to provide a certificate of medical clearance to those who have completed the required 14 days self-quarantine.

In keeping with being in quarantine, children who attend early education and childcare and students in Victorian primary schools and secondary schools, who have been in mainland China or Iran, are excluded from attending that educational or care setting until 14 days after they were last in mainland China or Iran.

Again, in keeping with being in quarantine, children who attend early education and childcare and students in Victorian primary schools and secondary schools are excluded from attending that educational or care setting for 14 days following close contact with a confirmed novel coronavirus case.

Close contacts should not travel within Australia or internationally within the 14 days after last contact with the infectious case.

Healthcare workers

Anyone who works in healthcare or residential care and has been to a higher risk country (mainland China, Iran, South Korea or Italy) should not attend work for 14 days since leaving that country.

Symptomatic close contacts

Testing for novel coronavirus is not indicated unless symptoms develop.

The approach to a symptomatic close contact requires an assessment by a treating clinician, and involvement of an infectious disease specialist will be valuable. The next steps depend on whether a treating clinician has identified the patient as having a non-infectious cause, a likely non-respiratory infectious cause, or an acute respiratory illness.