**Staff Member with COVID-19**

This policy outlines the process if a member of the St George Medical Centre team tests positive for COVID-19.

If a team member is confirmed as having COVID-19 infection, Public Health Units will be notified and undertake contact tracing. This involves identifying people who have had any sort of contact with a person with confirmed COVID-19 infection and sorting them according to risk. The aim is to identify people who have had **close contact** with the infected person and direct them into quarantine to prevent further spread. People who are not close contacts do not have to go into quarantine, but should be alert to the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and monitor their health, continuing to practice recommended social distancing and hygiene measures.

Notes : (Workers who work in open spaces (e.g. in well ventilated large covered areas without walls) and who practice social distancing (i.e. remain 1.5m from other people) are unlikely to meet the definition of close contact.)

A person with confirmed COVID-19 infection is considered infectious from 24 hours before the onset of symptoms until at least 10 days after. Public Health Units will determine the dates during which the person with the infection may have passed infection to others.

**What is close contact**

A **close contact** is a person who has, during the period that the infected person is considered infectious:

* had greater than 15 minutes face to face contact with the infected person in any setting

OR

* shared a closed space with the infected person for a total of more than 2 hours. A closed space includes a home, the same room in an office, venues such as indoor dining areas and enclosed venues. Areas that would not be considered closed spaces include well-ventilated areas without walls or with partial walls and good airflow; pathways; semi-open or open loading areas and roadways.

The period of quarantine is 14 days from the last contact with the infected person.

This is based on the longest known incubation period. If a person in quarantine has a negative test during the period of quarantine, they still need to complete the period of quarantine, as they may become positive in following days.

**Quarantine Guidelines**

* - Co-workers who are close contacts of a confirmed positive case of Covid-19 will be required to go into quarantine for 14 days.
* - During quarantine, if they develop any symptoms they should get assessed and tested if appropriate for COVID-19 (this can be arranged by their GPs or at a Fever clinic).
* - While waiting for test results they must remain isolation.
* - If their test for COVID-19 comes back negative they are required complete the rest of their quarantine period.
* - However, if they are confirmed to have COVID-19 they are required to remain in isolation.
* - A Confirmed or probable case with mild illness who did not require hospitalisation can be released from isolation if they meet all the following criteria:
  1. o at least 10 days have passed since the onset of symptoms: and
  2. o there has been resolution of all symptoms of the acute illness for the previous 72 hours

**Risk mitigation protocol**

* - Social distancing and good hand hygiene in the workplace
* - Increased cleaning of common hard surfaces and touch points such as door handles, equipment
* - Team members who develop acute respiratory infection (fever, cough, sore throat etc) will be excluded from the workplace and only allowed to return when they have
* - Been symptom free for a minimum of 48 hours
* - Been assessed, tested if necessary and received cleared test results by a GP
* (The longer a person with acute respiratory infection remains in the workplace, the longer they may have close contact with other team members).
* - Risk assess close office areas.
* - Working from home where possible.
* - Staff who return from travel adhere to quarantine requirements
* - Comply with social distancing directives and recommendations for the community, from the government.

**Quarantine** – for contacts who are asymptomatic and COVID-19 negative

**Isolation** – for people who are symptomatic or suspected to have/or have COVID-19