

Visitor Risk Context

Advice for employees

Visitor Risk Context i.e. if the visitor is from a situation with a higher risk	Visit	Room placement for the patient being visited	PPE Tier for employees /others in the room	Visitor Testing	PPE worn by the visitor	Requirements for patient being visited	Approval required for exemptions
Visitor has tested positive for COVID-19	Only permitted if an exemption granted	Negative pressure room	Tier 3	Not required	Tier 3	Quarantine (Tier 3) 14 days post-visit (PCC)	CHO/DCHO, NM of department and Director Infection Prevention
Visitor has suspected COVID i.e. has symptoms or has had a test and not yet cleared	Only permitted if an exemption granted	Negative pressure or single room	Tier 3	Pre-visit (within 24 hours) and post-visit	Tier 3	Tier 3 until visitor tests negative post-visit	CHO/DCHO, NM of department and Director Infection Prevention
Visitor is in quarantine for any reason , i.e. “at-risk” epidemiology: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Placed in hotel quarantine. Close contact with a confirmed case Visited Tier 1 exposure site. Returned from Red Zone 	Only permitted if an exemption granted	Negative pressure or single room	Tier 3	Pre-visit (within 24 hours) and post-visit	Tier 3	Tier 3 until visitor tests negative post-visit	CHO/DCHO, NM of department and Director Infection Prevention
Visitor has been released from a quarantine facility within last 7 days	Only permitted if an exemption granted	Negative pressure or single room	Tier 3	Pre-visit (within 24 hours) and post-visit	N95 mask	Cleared immediately post-visit	NM of department or delegate and Director Infection Prevention
Visitor has visited a Tier 2 exposure site or Orange Zone	Only permitted if has had a negative swab	No specific requirements	Standard precautions	Not required	Surgical mask	Cleared immediately post-visit	Not required
Visitor works in hotel quarantine or a COVID Streaming area Assumes contact with COVID-19 mitigated by multiple controls, i.e., building, ventilation, vaccination, PPE, surveillance testing	Allowed	No specific requirements	Standard precautions	Usual surveillance testing, i.e. daily	Surgical mask	Cleared immediately post-visit	Not required

Comments:

- Recent release from a quarantine facility is viewed as lower risk than someone currently in quarantine, based on the assumption that the inherent risk from overseas travel or close contact exposure has expired, and the residual risk of acquiring COVID-19 in a quarantine facility is small. This risk is viewed as higher than workers in quarantine facilities due to the incomplete adherence and oversight to frequent testing (particularly post-release from quarantine) and vaccination. The definition of “recent” is dependent on the duration specified in the entry screening tool, e.g., <https://savr.health.vic.gov.au/user>
- For higher-risk contexts, the patients being visited are maintained in Tier 3 precautions to mitigate the risk of exposure if a visitor were to return a positive test 1-2 days post-visit.
- Visitors are asked to wear PPE, despite limited evidence of benefit. The rationale for Tier 3 is to act as both a deterrent to coming in contact with the healthcare environment as well as being a barrier in the event of the visitor subsequently turning positive to minimise contact tracing efforts and impact on furlough.
- Approvals are aligned to requirements under the Hospital Visitor Directions: <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/victorias-restriction-levels-covid-19>



Patient Risk Context

Advice for employees

Patient Risk Context i.e. if the patient is from a situation with a higher risk	Outpatient appointment	Inpatient room placement	PPE Tier for employees/others in the room	Patient Testing	Patient Clearance
Patient has tested positive for COVID-19	Telehealth recommended; face to face in Tier 3 precautions if required	Negative pressure room	Tier 3	Day 13 swab + serology	See DH guidelines
Patient has suspected COVID i.e. has symptoms or has had a test and not yet cleared	Defer until negative test if possible; face to face in Tier 3 precautions if required	Negative pressure room or single room	Tier 3	See DH guidelines	Negative test + resolution of symptoms or an alternative diagnosis
Patient is in quarantine for any reason i.e. “at-risk” epidemiology: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Placed in hotel quarantine. Close contact with a confirmed case Visited Tier 1 exposure site. Returned from Red Zone 	Telehealth recommended; face to face in Tier 3 precautions if required	Negative pressure room or single room	Tier 3	Baseline + 2nd daily until day 13/ day 14	Completion of quarantine period AND negative tests at Day 13/ Day 14 post-break of contact
Patient has recently been released from a quarantine facility	Telehealth recommended for 14 days; face to face in Tier 3 precautions if required	If within 14 days of release - Negative pressure room or single room	If within 14 days of release, Tier 3	Swab at day 3, 7, 10 and 14 post-release	Negative test at Day 14 post-release from quarantine
Patient has visited a Tier 2 exposure site or Orange Zone	Allowed if has returned a negative swab	No specific requirements if returned a negative swab	Standard precautions if returned negative swab	No specific requirements if returned a negative swab since visiting Tier 2 exposure site or orange zone	Not applicable
Patient works in hotel quarantine or a COVID Streaming area i.e. assumes contact with COVID-19 mitigated by multiple controls, i.e. building, ventilation, vaccination, PPE, surveillance testing	Allowed	No specific requirements	Standard precautions	One negative swab since last working in hotel quarantine or streaming zone	Not applicable



Healthcare Worker Risk Context

Advice for employees

HCW	Requirement	HCW Testing	Other comments
HCW has been in Hotel Quarantine as an international arrival	Not able to work for seven (7) days after completing quarantine and after they have returned a negative COVID test seven (7) days post leaving hotel quarantine.	Day 3, 7 and before returning to work	
HCW has been in frontline accommodation	Able to return to work as soon as they are released from isolation.	At the start of quarantine, D7, D13 and if they develop symptoms	
HCW has been to a Red, or Extreme Risk Zone	Not able to work for 14 days post leaving red zone	At the start of quarantine, at D13 and if they develop symptoms	
HCW has been to an Orange Zone or Tier 2 exposure site	Can work after a negative swab	Immediate swab	
HCW has been to a Tier 1 exposure site or is a primary close contact	Not able to work for 14 days post leaving exposure site/case	At the start of quarantine, at D13 and if they develop symptoms	
HCW has been identified as a secondary contact to a primary close contact	Isolate until swab of Primary contact known	Not required	
HCW has a household member who has been discharged from hotel quarantine in the past 14 days	Household member has a negative swab at day 3 and 7 post leaving the hotel	Not required	
HCW has a household member who has been to a Red or Extreme Risk Zone	Able to work if the household member has a negative swab and can isolate safely at home	Not required	Isolate at home is possible if can have separate bedroom and bathroom
HCW has a household member who has been to a Tier 1 exposure site	Able to work if the household member has a negative swab and the HCW has separated	Not required	Need to separate (not under the same roof) from household member to return to work
HCW has a household member who has been to an Orange Zone or a Tier 2 site	No restrictions for employee	Not required	
HCW has worked and found out they are now a PCC	Not able to work for 14 days post leaving exposure site/case	Immediate swab and if negative repeat at 24-48 hours	SCCs of HCW are released after the first negative swab if deemed a low-risk PCC – or must wait for a second negative swab if deemed high-risk PCC (e.g., PCC has symptoms)



COVID-19

Healthcare Worker Risk Context

Advice for employees

HCW has worked in a COVID streaming area

Healthcare workers (clinical and non-clinical) working in COVID streaming areas may work in a different hospital or health setting if the following safeguards are in place:

- [Daily employee attestation](#)
- [Surveillance testing](#) (routine testing for COVID-19)
- [Appropriate PPE](#) is worn at all times (N95 as a minimum for two weeks after the move)

1 x throat-nose swab and 4 saliva swabs per week - during and 14 days after leaving the area