

# COVID-19 Risk Assessment for patients who physically present to general practice and healthcare settings other than receiving hospitals



Please note background colour coding indicates infection control precautions as per right-hand panel

**1 CLOSE CONTACTS:**  
**Any individual who has had greater than 15 minutes face-to-face (<2 metres\* distance) contact with a laboratory confirmed case, in any setting.**  
 Click [here](#) for further details on the definition of close contacts.

*\*A distance of 1 metre is generally regarded as sufficient to minimise direct exposure to droplets however, for Public Health purposes, a close contact definition of 2 metres has been specified.*

**Interim Case Definition**

In the 14 days before the onset of illness:

Been in an area with presumed community transmission of COVID-19

OR

Contact<sup>1</sup> with a case of COVID-19

OR

Worked in or attended a healthcare facility abroad where patients with COVID-19 were being treated

AND

**CLINICAL CRITERIA**

- severe acute respiratory infection requiring admission to hospital with clinical or radiological evidence of pneumonia or acute respiratory distress syndrome

OR

- acute respiratory infection of any degree of severity (including at least one of the following: fever, shortness of breath or cough)

OR

Fever of unknown cause with no other symptoms

Clinicians should be alert to the possibility of atypical presentations in patients who are immunocompromised.

**STANDARD PRECAUTIONS (SP)**

**Maintain at least 1 METRE DISTANCE CONTACT & DROPLET PRECAUTIONS:**

- Perform Hand Hygiene
- Long-sleeved gown, if available, if not, then use plastic apron and roll up sleeves
- Respiratory protection (surgical face mask)
- Eye protection (face shield or goggles)
- Gloves
- Respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette



**CONTACT DETAILS:**  
**PUBLIC HEALTH Medical Officer Health (MoH): (OOH 0818 501999)**

HSE E: 01 635 2145  
 HSE M: 057 935 9891  
 HSE MW: 061 483 338  
 HSE NE: 046 907 6412  
 HSE NW: 071 985 2900  
 HSE SE: 056 778 4142  
 HSE S: 021 492 7601  
 HSE W: 091 775 200

NAS: as per usual channels—  
 (0818 501999)

1. **ISOLATE** patient away from other patients (Advice for GPs)
2. Initiate **STANDARD CONTACT & DROPLET PRECAUTIONS**
3. Provide the patient with a **SURGICAL MASK** if tolerated
4. Explain the **NOW and the NEXT to the patient**
5. Ask patient to return home and await **National Ambulance Service (NAS) arrival for COVID-19 Home Assessment**. Patients **must not** travel home by taxi, public transport or walking. Patient may travel home by car if patient feels well enough to drive or can be driven by a person who has already had significant exposure, who is aware of the risks and who is willing to drive them. Patient must remain in GP surgery until arrival of NAS if no other transport option is available.

Phone **PUBLIC HEALTH** to **DISCUSS** details of the case  
 If the patient fits the CASE DEFINITION, **Public Health should ring National Ambulance Service (NAS)** to arrange for COVID-19 Home Assessment as per risk assessment and testing pathway for mildly symptomatic patients.

- Discard waste and decontaminate environment as per IPC guidelines
- Record details of all persons in the waiting room and practice team members who may have had potential exposure