

## **Guidance for Testing**

The COVID -19 virus is mainly contagious within the first 5 days of contracting the illness. The major concern of public health is to be able to contain the spread of the virus. It is therefore critical to focus on persons who were exposed within the first 5 days to a person who is positive.

The second consideration is whether that person is classified as a primary, secondary or tertiary contact. This is important to allow us to focus on those patients who are primary contacts, who would have been exposed within the last 5 days.

All primary contacts should present themselves for testing at a designated testing site.

Secondary and tertiary contacts do not necessarily trigger quarantine, site closure or other institutional level responses. Instead individuals who had secondary or tertiary contact should self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms, wear a face mask while in public and continue to practice physical distancing. This group will be guided for testing by the public health team if so directed. For the avoidance of doubt the definitions of primary, secondary and tertiary contacts are at Appendix I.

### **Second Test**

In the case of a primary contact, a second test will only be conducted if the first test was less than five days of exposure to a positive person. This second test, if necessary will be done no later than five days after the first test, but preferably within five days of the last exposure to a positive person.

With respect to secondary and tertiary contacts the public health team will determine which persons, other than visitors, require a second test.

As part of the protocol for managing patients who are COVID positive, the clinical health team reserves the right to determine the further testing protocol for any patient initially tested positive.

## **Appendix I**

### **Definition of Primary Contacts**

Primary contacts are persons who come into direct contact with persons who test positive for COVID-19. Direct contact in a COVID-19 context is face-to-face contact with an individual within two meters (6 feet) and more than 15 minutes without a mask.

### **Definition of Secondary Contacts**

Secondary contacts are persons who have direct contact with primary contacts. For example, if a worker from a household with a known positive case goes to their work environment and interacts with co-workers, these co-workers would be classified as secondary contacts.

### **Definition of Tertiary Contacts**

A tertiary contact is a person who interacts with a secondary contact. The tertiary contact is therefore the furthest removed from the primary/index case.

Prepared by the Chief Medical Officer

The image shows a blue circular official stamp on the left. The text inside the stamp reads "CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER" at the top and "MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS" at the bottom. To the right of the stamp is a handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "Dr. [unclear]".