

Assessing and managing the risk: COVID exposures in critical services and infrastructure

1. Procedure Statement

This guidance will be triggered when the South Australian population vaccination rates are 80-90% 16+, or as directed by the Chief Public Health Officer. This guidance is for critical services and infrastructure in the community and is to be used when any person with COVID has attended the premises - follow the steps in this document to conduct a risk assessment.

2. Background

This guidance is general. Tailored risk assessment and outbreak management will be undertaken by SA Health in some situations, e.g., in settings with significant transmission events or other identified risks exist (workforce, operational continuity or community risk).

The guidance will be updated to reflect shifting COVID epidemiology and subsequent changes to contact management practices in South Australia.

3. Applicability

Specific sectors or industries covered by this guidance include:

- Defence
- Essential infrastructure work sites (i.e. energy services, water services, food manufacturing and distribution, excluding meat processing facilities)
- Emergency services
 - SAPOL, State Emergency services, Fire Services (excluding employees who work in COVID red zones)
- Veterinary services
- Agriculture

This guidance **does not** apply to:

- Contacts/exposures in households
- Community exposures external to the businesses/ workplaces listed
- Residents in any type of residential care facility



- A separate guidance document is available for:
 - Community healthcare services, including primary and tertiary care such as GP practices, allied health clinics, radiology practices, dental practices, chiropractors, optometrists, psychologists, counsellors, physiotherapists, remedial massage, traditional medicine, and acupuncture etc. Refer to ‘Assessing and managing the risk: COVID exposures in primary and community-based healthcare’.
 - Essential businesses, including transport and freight, supermarkets, service stations, accommodation services (caravan, camping, backpackers, hotels, hostels), office environments, construction and trade, transport freight and logistics, supermarkets, service stations, public transport (bus, train, tram, taxi, ride shar services) and end of life services (funeral homes, crematoria). Refer to ‘Assessing and managing the risk: COVID exposures in essential businesses’.
 - General business and venues, including hospitality (cafes, restaurants, night clubs, pubs, functions, weddings), community sport (gyms, swimming pools, saunas, dance studios), places of worship, retail services, entertainment facilities (cinemas, theatres, concert halls), higher level education (university, TAFE, language schools), beauty and other services (hairdressing, spas, nail salons, waxing salons, tanning salons, massage parlours, tattoo studios, wellness services such as complementary therapies. Refer to ‘Assessing and managing the risk: COVID exposures in general businesses and venues.
 - Industries or facilities with specific SA Health outbreak plans. For example, tertiary hospitals, residential aged care facilities, correctional facilities, meatworks, childcare services, primary and high schools, mining sector, Aboriginal communities, homeless communities, and maritime.

4. Procedure Detail

a. Determine if your workers or staff had contact with the case in their infectious period (Refer to Table 1)

If a person with COVID-19 has attended your business during their infectious period, you will be advised by SA Health.

A case’s infectious period begins two calendar days prior to symptom onset.

- For example, if a case’s symptoms start on 1 December 2021 (any time of the day), their infectious period commenced at 12.01am on 29 November 2021.

If the case does not have symptoms, the infectious period begins two calendar days prior to the date that the positive test was collected.

- For example, if a case was swabbed on 1 December 2021, their infectious period commenced at 12.01am on 29 November 2021.

Workers are potentially contacts if they are exposed to a COVID case during their infectious period.

If you determine that your worker/s did not come into contact with the case during their infectious period, they are not a contact and no further action is required.

If you determine that your worker/s did come into contact with the case during their infectious period, continue to Step b.

b. Determine the duration of contact

Determine the duration of time the case and the contact were together.

Time periods are cumulative across a period of one day, e.g., two separate 10-minute exposures should be assessed as a “prolonged” (>15 min) exposure.

c. Determine the proximity of contact

Determine the distance between the case and the contact

d. Estimate the size of the space (if indoors)

Estimate the size of the indoor space.

e. Risk assess the contacts of a COVID positive case

You now have the information you need to risk assess your staff. Contacts will be assessed as low risk casual contacts, casual contact, vaccinated close contact, unvaccinated close contact using the tables 1 and 2.

f. Contact SA Health

Once the risk assessment is complete, fill out the Excel spreadsheet that is available for download with this document.

Make sure information is completed for staff who have had contact with the COVID-19 case during the infectious period.

Consider all people who may have had exposure to a COVID-19 case during the infectious period including staff common areas, meal breaks or other non-routine work situations onsite.

Once complete, send to SA Health at health.coronaviruseenquiries@sa.gov.au

SA Health will notify close contacts of their exposure to a case and the necessary actions, including their quarantine and testing requirements.

Your workplace should notify casual contacts, if you have their contact details.

g. Cleaning

Premises must be cleaned following attendance of a confirmed case. Routine cleaning processes are adequate. This can be done overnight so as not to disrupt normal business hours. If premises are notified during business hours, they may need to close for a short time to undertake cleaning.

Once the clean is complete, the business can re-open without any other requirements (unless directly contacted and advised by SA Health).

h. Deciding if the premises needs to close

Premises will not be required to close unless:

- Advised by SA Health
- Cleaning cannot occur outside of business hours. The business can reopen as soon as the clean is completed.
- The business decides there is insufficient staff available to keep the business open

Table 1: Assessing the risk for COVID Exposures in critical services and infrastructure

Triggers: 80-90% 16+ vaccination coverage of the South Australian population coverage or as directed by the Chief Public Health Officer

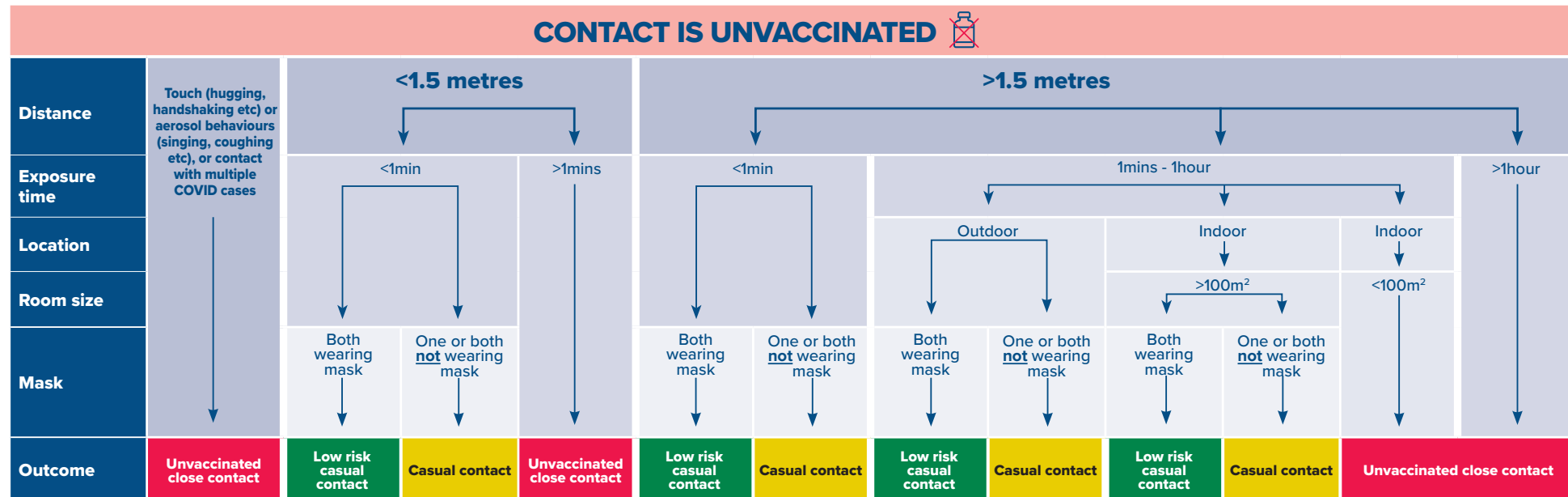
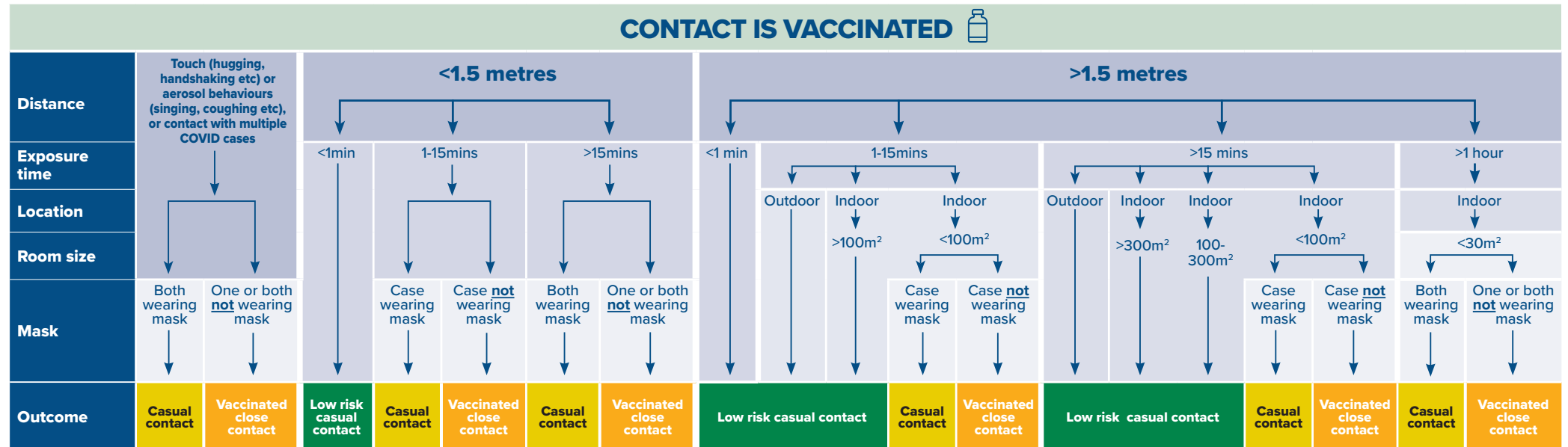


Table 2. Managing the risk for COVID Exposures in **critical services and infrastructure**

	LOW RISK CASUAL CONTACT	CASUAL CONTACT	VACCINATED CLOSE CONTACT	UNVACCINATED CLOSE CONTACT
Quarantine requirements	None	Leave workplace as soon as possible (end of shift) Quarantine only until initial negative test result is received	Leave workplace as soon as possible Quarantine for 7 days from last exposure	Leave workplace as soon as possible Quarantine for 14 days from last exposure
Testing requirements	Usual surveillance testing as per industry requirements only, if applicable.	Immediately (PCR) - may return to work following negative result AND Day 4 test (PCR) AND Day 6 test (PCR) AND Day 13 (PCR) OR option of the use of RAT test for surveillance testing	Immediate test (PCR) AND Day 6 test (PCR) AND Day 13 clearance test (PCR) Test at first onset of symptoms on any day	Immediate test (PCR) AND Day 6 test (PCR) AND Day 13 clearance test (PCR) Test at first onset of symptoms on any day
Any contact who develops symptoms must get a throat-nose swab (PCR) and isolate until result is known and symptoms have resolved.				
Return to work	Can remain at work	If initial test is negative, may return to work and leave quarantine with the below requirements:	After 7 days with a negative Day 6 test.	After 14 days with a negative Day 13 test
Other requirements	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue testing regimen Wear surgical mask at all times Avoid contact with vulnerable populations (e.g. elderly, pregnant, people with chronic diseases) Avoid non essential activities Do not work across multiple sites, if possible Maintain social distancing Do not enter shared work spaces when not completing critical work (including tea rooms, change rooms, food courts, offices, cars etc) 	May attend work from Days 8-14, under additional precautions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wear surgical mask at all times Do not work across multiple sites Do not enter shared work spaces when not completing critical work (including tea rooms, change rooms, food courts, offices, cars etc) Avoid non-essential social activities Do not attend COVID Management Plan events Do not enter a high-risk setting Avoid contact with vulnerable populations (e.g. elderly, pregnant, people with chronic diseases) 	Not applicable
Household quarantine requirements	None	None	Yes – People in same household* as the contact who are unvaccinated must also follow the above quarantine and testing requirements (unless they can be appropriately separated from primary contact) No – People in same household as the contact who are vaccinated only need to get a test on day 1 and 6 (no quarantine).	Yes – People in same household* as the contact who are unvaccinated must also follow the above quarantine and testing requirements (unless they can be appropriately separated from primary contact) Yes – People in same household as the contact who are vaccinated need to quarantine for 7 days and get a test on day 1 and day 6 (unless they can be appropriately separated from primary contact) No – If the contact is under 12 years old, people in the same household who are vaccinated need to get a test on day 1 and 6 (no quarantine)

Contact tracing for the public is conducted by SA Health. You will be categorised on a risk based assessment with consideration to your vaccination status, mask use, environment, activities taken and other epidemiological and environmental factors.

This is a general guide only. Additional testing and quarantine requirements may apply to individual cases based on a risk assessment.

Vaccinated refers to a person who is greater than 14 days following receipt of the final dose of a primary course of COVID-19 vaccine approved or recognised by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).

Notes: COVID-19 tests for contacts must be PCR tests. This applies to children and adults of all ages.

*Household is defined as residing in same dwelling overnight, intimate partners, and other household-like settings.