FAQ - What if a COVID-19 positive patient visits my practice, or if a member of my team tests positive for COVID-19?

You will be notified by the pathology company or ACT Health's Covid-19 team if your patient has tested positive for Covid-19. Temporary closure of your practice may be necessary to allow investigations to be completed, and practice cleaning and disinfection to take place. See the Chief Health Officer alerts with advice for GP's - alerts are updated regularly. You can still provide Telehealth services to Covid-19 positive patients, or from home if you are in isolation and your practice has set up remote access for providers. CHN's Digital Health Team can assist digitalhealth@chnact.org.au See our HealthPathways for clinical and referral pathways.

RACGP also have a factsheet for GP's on Responding to a COVID-19 case in the practice team.

What do I need to do if I am transferring COVID-19 vaccines to another practice in the ACT?

You must ensure that the cold chain is maintained when transferring vaccines between practices. Transferring stock between practices must be captured within the **Vaccine Stock Management Report** by both the transferring and receiving site. If sites transfer vaccine, it is the responsibility of the sites to manage appropriate cold chain. It is critical that cold chain storage and handling requirements for the vaccines are maintained at all times and are not breached during the stocktake process. If you have questions about access to the Vaccine Stock Management Report or associated processes, call the **Vaccine Operation Centre** (VOC) Ph: 1800 318 208 between 7am-10pm AEST or email COVID19VaccineOperationsCentre@health.gov.au

Where can I find advice for patients about COVID-19 vaccination?

The Department of Health provides a list of resources for patients following vaccination which includes advice on preparing for your vaccination as well as vaccine-specific advice. See here COVID-19 vaccination - patient resources and COVID-19 vaccines - is it true?. There is also advice for vaccine providers available here COVID-19 vaccine - Advice for vaccine providers.

Contact Types and Advice

See this link for information on How contact types are determined. Advice for ACT/NSW border residents can be found here NSW/ACT border residents.

Close contacts have a high risk of infection – this could be because they spent a long time with, or were in a confined space alongside, a confirmed case. For more information see Quarantine for close contacts.

Casual contacts have a lower risk of exposure – they may have been outside or spent a short time in a large venue with the confirmed case. For more information see Quarantine for casual contacts.

Secondary contacts have been close to a **close contact** since they were exposed to COVID-19. For more information see Advice for secondary contacts who live in the same place as the close contact.

This includes anyone who:
- Lives in the same home as a close contact of a person with COVID-19 (this is a household contact).
- Has visited the home of a close contact of a person with COVID-19.

Sourced from www.covid19.act.gov.au and Department of Health COVID-19 18th August 2021

- Has been visited in their home by a close contact of a person with COVID-19.
- Has shared a confined space (such as a car) with a friend who is a close contact of a person with COVID-19.
- Secondary contacts may also include other people with a high exposure risk or high risk of transmission into the community.

If you are a secondary contact who is also a household member of a close contact, you must quarantine until both you and the close contact are released from quarantine by ACT Health. You should maintain separated from the close contact during the quarantine period. This includes:

- Remain completely separated from them at all times;
- Stay and sleep in a different room from them;
- Use a separate bathroom (if you only have one bathroom, you must clean the bathroom, including taps, doorknobs, buttons and anything else you may have touched with disinfectant after every use);
- Not share household items including dishes, cups, towels, bedding, or other items. After using these items, you should wash them thoroughly with soap and water or use a dishwasher/washing machine; and
- Avoid shared/common areas. If it is unavoidable, ensure that masks that cover the nose and mouth are worn whenever in common areas (e.g. kitchen, hallway) Any common surfaces in the area (e.g. taps, cupboard, door handles) must be cleaned with disinfectant after use.

If you are a secondary contact who is **not** household member of a close contact, you must quarantine until the close contact receives a negative result as long as you have been appropriately separated from them since they got tested. ACT Health will notify you when you can come out of quarantine. There are specific quarantine requirements for secondary contacts. Find out more about Advice for secondary contacts who live in the same place as the close contact.

Monitor advises people to monitor for symptoms, and to get tested if you experience symptoms.

For an up-to-date list of exposure sites, see ACT Exposure locations.

Quarantine and Isolation

Quarantine separates a person who may have been exposed to COVID-19 from the rest of the community.

This is to protect the community while waiting to see if the person has COVID-19. If you are in quarantine, you may not leave your place of residence, with some exceptions (eg. to access emergency medical care) as described here Quarantine requirements and advice.

Stay-at-home requirements apply in the ACT if you have travelled from an area interstate that is subject to a stay-at-home requirement. A **stay-at-home requirement** is different from **quarantine** because you can leave your home or hotel room for certain reasons Stay at home requirements.

Isolation separates a person who has COVID-19 from other people to prevent the disease spreading to other people. See here Isolation requirements. **In the ACT, isolation is mandatory for people with confirmed COVID-19.**

If you have questions or need help while in quarantine or isolation at home, contact the COVID-19 Helpline on **(02) 6207 7244** between 8 am and 8 pm daily.