



# COVID-19 Management of cases and contacts\* in the school setting



\*If contact is an adult, including teachers, please refer to [adult close contact protocols](#) and information on [self-isolation/restricted movement](#)

## A Public Health Risk Assessment should be applied to ascertain level of exposure and necessary restrictions

This algorithm is for contact tracing of confirmed cases, however if a child is sent for a test (suspected case) the **whole house should restrict movements until the result is known**. Children or teachers in the child's pod in school/childcare facility generally do not need to restrict movements unless the index child tests positive for COVID-19 or unless it is deemed necessary by Public Health Risk Assessment.

**Confirmed index case: Child (3 months—13<sup>th</sup> birthday)**

**Confirmed index case: Child 13 years or older**

**Confirmed index case: Adult**

**Contact:**  
Child 3 months—13<sup>th</sup> birthday

**Contact:**  
Child 13 years or older

**Contact:**  
Child (primary or secondary school age)

**Household setting<sup>1</sup>:**  
Contact with person of any age in the household

**School/childcare setting:**  
Pod=facility cohorting arrangement

**Pod**

**Non-Pod**

**School/childcare setting:**  
Due to the different networks of secondary school children, a Public Health Risk Assessment should ascertain the level of exposure in a school setting

**Household setting<sup>1</sup>:**  
Contact with person of any age in the household

**School/childcare setting<sup>2</sup>**

Close contact

Close contact

Casual contact<sup>3</sup>

All contacts should follow procedures for [casual contacts](#) until Public Health Risk Assessment has been performed<sup>4</sup>

Close contact

**Casual contact actions:** Attendance at school can continue with monitoring for symptoms a priority and appropriate IPC restrictions maintained

**Test for COVID-19 and restrict movement for 14 days after last exposure**

**Note:** contacts of contacts do not need to restrict movements

If deemed [close contact](#) by Public Health Risk Assessment e.g. if physical distancing could not be adhered to

**If all [appropriate measures](#) were taken by the index adult, then no additional restrictions apply for any person who is [not classified](#) as a close contact**

1. A Public Health Risk Assessment should be undertaken for complex cases, such as, households that cannot adhere to self-isolation measures.
2. A Public Health Risk Assessment should be used to determine if physical distancing and IPC measures were maintained in school/childcare setting with adult index case.
3. Unless a Public Health Risk Assessment indicates a more significant exposure, warranting "close contact" restrictions for children outside of Pod arrangements, for example, close friendship networks, school activities.
4. A Risk Assessment conducted by **Public Health** is required to ascertain the level of exposure in these situations and some contacts may be classified as close contacts following Public Health Risk Assessment.