

I work in a group home or shared living.

What do I need to do if a person has been tested for or confirmed with COVID-19?

The person has symptoms and has been tested for COVID-19. The person may have a fever that is greater than 38°C or a history of fever (night sweats, chills) **or** acute respiratory infection (such as a cough, sore throat, shortness of breath).

- Observe and record the person's temperature at least twice a day. Staff should monitor for signs of rapid breathing or shortness of breath.
- Keep in contact with a GP regarding management or any changes in the person's condition – follow medical direction.

The person is safe to be cared for in the home pending test results.

- Restrict visitors.
- Isolate the person in their room if possible, or away from other people with a disability.
- Apply a surgical mask to the person (if they can tolerate) during face to face contact for care.
- Maintain a 1.5m distance when not doing direct care.
- Allocate minimum staff to support the person.
- The person should wear a mask when leaving the house to attend medical appointments.
- If the person will not wear a mask, staff to wear a mask for protection during general contact. Full personal protective equipment (PPE) to be used when attending to personal support needs.

General environment

- Ensure good airflow in the house – air conditioning or open windows weather permitting.
- The infected person is to wear a mask (other individuals do not need to).
- Ensure isolation or distancing from other people of at least 1.5 metres.
- Clean the person's area and the shared living areas frequently with detergent and disinfectant.
- Zone spaces in the house to achieve distancing/isolation.
- Ensure dishes, cups and eating utensils are washed in hot soapy water or in the dishwasher.
- Wash sheets, towels and clothing in hot water and line dry.
- Do not shake linen/laundry as this may spread virus particles.
- Staff with compromised health, such as those with chronic heart, lung or kidney conditions or diabetes, should avoid contact.
- Observe correct cough etiquette.
- Wash hands often and thoroughly or use sanitiser.

A person has returned a positive test result

- Continue to monitor and record their temperature at least twice a day. Staff should monitor for signs of rapid breathing or shortness of breath.
- Keep in contact with a GP regarding management or any changes in the person's condition – follow medical direction.
 - Isolate the person to their area of the home with their bathroom. If you are unable to isolate this person from others, contact your Supervisor for further advice.
- The minimum required staff to be allocated to care for the person. Staff not allocated should avoid contact. Use PPE.

Mild Symptoms

- The person may have a fever, cough, sore throat and fatigue but no difficulty breathing.
- Keep in contact with a GP or public health professional regarding management – follow medical direction.

Serious Symptoms

- The person may have fever, cough, sore throat, fatigue and has difficulty breathing, poor food/fluid intake.
- Call an ambulance (000) and notify the operator that the individual has tested positive for COVID-19.

If symptoms worsen while being cared for at home

- Seek prompt medical advice
 - In hours call GP
 - After hours call Health Direct or Locum or
 - Phone the **WA Coronavirus Helpline 13 26 843**
- Call an ambulance (000) if difficulty breathing
- Notify Supervisor

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- If the person tests positive, ensure that you have PPE available before attending the individual. Keep close contact with your Supervisor to ensure that PPE requirements are met.
- The person should wear a mask when you are carrying out personal care or leaving the house to attend medical appointments.
- Staff caring for the person to wear PPE: mask, gown/apron, and gloves. Protective eyewear to be used if the person is coughing or for close personal care.
- Supervisors will receive access to PPE and direction as to when to distribute; monitor stocks in houses and direct requests for further supplies to the nominated by the coordinator managing the COVID-19 outbreak.
- If the person tests positive, directions to staff for the level of PPE requirements will be issued by management.
- Click on this link for a training video available to show staff how to put on and take off PPE correctly: <https://youtu.be/qENV2ly-ndk>

If the person's tests return positive and if staff are considered a close contact, they will be contacted by their Supervisor. Staff should self-isolate and seek medical advice by contacting their GP or the **WA Coronavirus Helpline on 13 26 843**.

References

Australian Government Department of Health (2020). [Coronavirus Disease 2019](#).

Australian Government Health Department (2020). [Revised advice on non-inpatient care of people with suspected or confirmed COVID-19, including use of personal protective equipment \(PPE\)](#).

Australian Government. Department of Health (2020). [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) guidelines for outbreaks in residential care facilities](#).

Australian Government Department of Health (2020). [Home isolation guidelines when unwell \(suspected and confirmed cases\)](#).

Australian Government Department of Health (2020). [Guide for Homecare Providers](#)