

CLOSE CONTACTS AT COMMUNITY FOOTBALL



As the number of COVID-19 cases increase across Western Australia, it is inevitable that the case numbers at Community Football Clubs across the state will also increase. As part of this, Community Football Clubs will play an important role in communicating to its members regarding cases at the club, and to any potential close contacts.

What is a Close Contact?

The WA State Government definition of a close contact is:

- You are a household member or intimate partner of a person with COVID-19 and have had contact with them during their infectious period.
- You have had close personal interaction with a person with COVID-19 during their infectious period. This includes if you have:
 - had at least 15 minutes face-to-face contact where a mask was not worn by both you and the person with COVID-19;
 - greater than two hours within a small room or classroom environment with a case during their infectious period, where masks have been removed for this period;
- You have been advised by WA Health that you are a close contact.

What does this mean for Football Clubs?

Based on these definitions it is highly unlikely that there would be a close contact within a football game or event as the relevant thresholds would not be met. Players are not face to face with teammates or opponents for 15 minutes.

It is more likely that close contacts would come into play in settings off the oval – for example, in the change rooms or eating with teammates following a game/training. The key here is to ensure that when in changerooms that masks are worn, and this would minimise your risk of being deemed a close contact.

What should we do when there has been a case at our Football Club?

Based on the above WA State Government definitions of a close contact, each club would need to make a determination as to whether there has been a situation that triggers the definition of a Close Contact. Noting that applying the current definitions will mean it's unlikely someone will be a close contact during the game/event but it may happen off the playing arena.

When there has been a case at your football club, determine if there are members / participants that would be a close contact. If you believe there is a potential close contact, then communicate with them. A letter template example is available via <https://www.wafootball.com.au/covid19>.

If you do not believe there are any close contacts then communicate with members that there has been a positive case, and that they should monitor for symptoms, and if symptoms arise then to get tested immediately. Again, a template letter for clubs is available via <https://www.wafootball.com.au/covid19>

The club should also advise their respective league and their appropriate contact at the WAFC.