

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT COVID-19 CONTACT TRACING

*This communication is intended for State Sporting Associations. Each SSA should use this information to develop a contact tracing plan that is relevant to your circumstances and in turn communicate that out to stakeholders.*

As Covid-19 case numbers inevitably increase clubs, associations and SSA's can play an important role in notifying close contacts. To date the Department of Health have played the sole role of contact tracing in the instance there is a Covid case, however as we move into a new phase of the pandemic management the focus of WA Health will be on high-risk settings, e.g. Residential Aged Care Facilities, remote Aboriginal communities, etc and the expectation is that businesses, facilities, sporting organisations and service providers be required to play a more involved role in managing communications. Guidance materials provided by the Department are available at:

[https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/A\\_E/Coronavirus/COVID19-information-for-business-and-industry/TTIQ-Plan](https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Coronavirus/COVID19-information-for-business-and-industry/TTIQ-Plan)

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### **WHY IS THE GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT OF COVID-19 CASES CHANGING?**

The high caseloads with the Omicron variant have necessitated a change in processes. WA Health has transitioned to focus contact tracing in areas with the greatest public health benefit and protection of at-risk populations. In line with other Australian states, WA no longer uses a casual contact definition, meaning casual contacts will no longer be required to test and isolate as a matter of course.

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### **WILL WA HEALTH STILL CONTACT ME TO ADVISE THAT SOMEBODY IN MY SPORT HAS BEEN CONFIRMED AS COVID-19 POSITIVE?**

WA Health will contact all positive cases by text message. **It will no longer advise you if you are a close contact.** As caseloads rise sporting clubs, venues and associations will need to play a role in the COVID response at a local level.

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## HOW DO I KNOW IF THERE HAS BEEN A CLOSE CONTACT IN MY SPORT?

The 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.

Based on these definitions it is highly unlikely that there would be a close contact within a sporting game or event as the relevant thresholds would not be met. Unless it is a sport, played in a small room for longer than 2 hours as an example. However, each Sport should decide on this.

It is more likely that close contacts would come into play in settings off the sporting arena – for example; change rooms or eating with teammates following a game etc.

The Department of Health have stressed the application of the above definitions even in the sport setting. So, despite the level of contact within a sport, if participants do not meet the above definitions, they are **not** deemed close contacts.

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## WHAT SHOULD WE DO WHEN THERE HAS BEEN A CASE?

Based on the Government definitions, each sport needs 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.

You should notify all participants, officials and coaches and we have provided example templates below, each sport should develop their own appropriate messaging and communication channels.

**NO CLOSE CONTACT SITUATION:**

If you determine there are no close contacts to the positive case, you may still choose to notify people so they can monitor for symptoms. The below is an example:

*Dear Member/Participant,*

*Thank you for your support and cooperation as we work through an evolving Covid landscape in Western Australia. Our focus remains the safety of our players, officials, coaches and families involved in our sport.*

***Please be advised that we have been notified of a positive Covid-19 case and you should immediately monitor for symptoms.***

*According to the State Government definitions of a Close Contact we do not believe you have reached the required thresholds; however, we encourage you to monitor for symptoms.*

***We have received notification of a positive case of a player involved in the game between CLUB A and CLUB B, on DATE ABC, played at LOCATION.***

*We thank you for your support in this matter as we aim to provide a safe environment for all people to participate.*

*From,*

**PERSON**

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## **CLOSE CONTACT SITUATION:**

If there has been a situation of close contact, in accordance with the definition, you should notify the people affected and advise them they are a close contact.

The below is an example only, and each sport should develop their own appropriate messaging and communication channels:

*Dear Member/Participant,*

*Thank you for your support and cooperation as we work through an evolving Covid landscape in Western Australia. Our focus remains the safety of our players, officials, coaches and families involved in our sport.*

***Please be advised that we have been notified of a positive Covid-19 case and you have been identified as a Close Contact.***

***We have received notification of a positive case of a player involved in the game between **CLUB A** and **CLUB B**, on **DATE ABC**, played at **LOCATION**.***

***As a close contact you must follow all State Government guidelines which are outlined at [www.healthywa.wa.gov.au](http://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au) or contact 13COVID (13 26843)***

*We thank you for your support in this matter as we aim to provide a safe environment for all people to participate.*

*From,*

*PERSON*