COVID-19

(Coronavirus)

When a positive case of COVID-19 is identified in Bermuda, the Ministry of Health's Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit (ESU) begins a process known as 'Contact Tracing' to determine who that person may have been in contact with and may have infected.

A person can be either a 'close contact' or a 'casual contact'.

'Close contact' means:



Having direct physical contact with an infected person (hugged or kissed them)

Spending **more** than 15 minutes of face-to-face contact within six feet of an infected person in any setting



Living in the same house or shared accommodation as an infected person



Sitting within 2 seats of an infected person, in any direction, on an airplane

'Casual contact' means:



Spending **less** than 15 minutes of face-to-face contact within six feet of an infected person in any setting



Being in the same room as with an infected person for less than 2 hours



Being on an airplane with an infected person but not sitting near them

Spending more than 2 hours in a closed space (such as an office of classroom) with an infected person will sometimes count as close contact...but it could also be a casual contact. Whether it is classified as 'casual' or 'close' contact will depend on the size of the room and other factors. Health officials will let you know if you are at risk or not.

If you are a **close contact** you need to quarantine for 14 days and, if advised by the ESU, you may be referred for COVID-19 testing. You should monitor yourself for any fever or symptoms and if they develop notify your GP and ESU contact tracer. You'll usually find out if you are a close contact because you will be notified by the Ministry of Health contact tracing team or you may call ESU at 444-2498.

If you are a **casual contact** you should make sure you know the symptoms of coronavirus and be aware that you may develop them. You do not need to restrict your movements, but continue to follow the public health guidance, as published on www.gov.bm/coronavirus. If you develop symptoms of coronavirus, you will need to self-isolate and phone your GP straight away for advice.