



Owners and operators of an identified exposure site

Frequently asked questions

The following information SHOULD NOT replace any instructions provided to the premises' owner/operator directly by Public Health

The information below applies when your premises has been identified as an exposure site in response to a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the community.

Refer to https://healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Coronavirus/Locations-visited-by-confirmed-cases for the list of exposure sites.

Why is my premises an exposure site?

Your premises has been identified as an exposure site because a COVID-19 case visited that location while they were infectious. It is important to identify exposure sites, to help identify close and/or casual contacts to the confirmed case.

How will people know they may have been exposed to COVID-19 at my premises?

Public Health is responsible for determining close or casual contacts and uses a range of information to do this. This is known as contact tracing.

If you, your patrons, suppliers, colleagues, employees or others were at the location (exposure site) at the same time as the COVID-19 infectious person, you/they may be identified as close or casual contacts.

Close and casual contacts are given specific public health advice regarding testing, quarantine and isolation, to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission. This information may be provided directly by the Public Health team, or via the Department of Health's exposure site webpage.

Will my business or premises be listed publicly as an exposure site?

If your premises is accessible to members of the public, your business and premises' name and address is likely to be made publicly available on the Department of Health's website to assist with contact tracing. Your business and premises may also be mentioned in the media as an exposure site.

The Department of Health does not publicly release exposure site locations where close and casual contacts can be comprehensively traced by other means, such as a work place that is inaccessible to the public or a private house.

Public health may continue to review exposure locations, and work with businesses to refine the information provided publicly, to ensure it is accurate.

Do I need to do anything to remove the risk of COVID-19 at my premises?

Public Health will advise if COVID-19 is still a risk at your premises.

Based on what we know about COVID-19 transmission, people who have been in close contact with a COVID-19 case are at highest risk of becoming infected.

However, SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, can survive on surfaces for several hours to a few days, depending on the surface type and environmental conditions. Frequently touched surfaces have a higher risk of being contaminated and are therefore a potential source of transmission.

Effective cleaning and disinfection will kill the virus on surfaces. Attention should be paid to shared workspaces, restrooms, staff changing rooms, lift buttons, gym equipment, horizontal surfaces such as tables, chairs and other frequently touched surfaces.

The Department of Health has released an *Infection prevention and control advice for environmental cleaning of a site following COVID-19 exposure* guide which is available here:

https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/~/_/media/Corp/Documents/Health-for/Infectious-disease/COVID19/COVID19-advice-for-environmental-cleaning-of-a-site-following-COVID-19-exposure.pdf

Do I need to close my business or premises?

You do not need to close your business or premises unless you are advised to do so by the Department of Health, or you do not have adequate numbers of staff to operate due to staff being needing to quarantine. Sometimes premises are recommended by Public Health to close until cleaning can be organised

If you are open or re-opening, you can contact your patrons and suppliers to let them know. This can be done through social media, text messages, emails, or phone calls.

How will my employees know if they can still come to work?

Public Health will advise individual employees about any testing or quarantine requirements.

If employees must quarantine or get tested and quarantine until they receive a negative result, they will not be able to attend work until they have completed these requirements. The length of time each staff member will be required to quarantine will be provided directly to the staff member by Public Health.

It is the employee's responsibility to share this information with you.

How will my business or premises' contact register information be accessed?

The occupier or other person in charge of a premises is required to request the contact details of each person, including patrons, contractors, volunteers, employees or others, who enters a relevant premises and is/appears to be aged 16 years or over, to assist with contact tracing in the event of an outbreak. It is up to an individual business how they collect this information.

SafeWA is the quickest and easiest way to identify close and casual contacts. If SafeWA information is available for your premises, you do not need to do anything. It is likely that the name registered with SafeWA for your premises will be the one published online in the first instance.

Public Health may ask you if your business has multiple venues within a site, or across multiple sites which use the same SafeWA QR code, to accurately identify contacts.

You will be contacted for other information you may have which can assist with the contact tracing process, including CCTV footage, staff rosters, timesheets, other electronic contact registers, manual contact registers, booking systems and delivery dockets.

Do I need to let anyone know that my premises is an exposure site?

Public Health is responsible for identifying and notifying people who have been at an exposure site at a specific time.

If you want to let your patrons and suppliers know that your premises is an exposure site, encourage them to visit the Department of Health's exposure site webpage for information.

This can be done through social media, text messages, emails, or phone calls.

Can my business or employees access financial support?

Those affected by COVID-19 may be eligible for financial compensation. The payment you or your employees may be able to get depends on your situation. The eligibility rules are different for each payment.

More information is available here:

<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/subjects/getting-help-during-coronavirus-covid-19/if-you-need-payment>

Where can I find more information?

More information is available by calling 13 COVID (13 26843) or online here:

- <https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/>
- <https://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/>
- <https://www.wa.gov.au/>

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