

CRITERIA FOR CONTACTS OF CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASES published in the Official Gazette in line with the decisions taken by the Communicable Diseases High Committee of TRNC Ministry of Health are as follows:

Close Contacts (High-risk contacts)

People who have been interacted with someone who has COVID-19 without taking preventive measures **(without wearing a mask or wearing the mask improperly)** are considered high-risk contacts in the following situations. People who have been interacted with the COVID-19 patient within the two-day period before the onset of disease symptoms or, if the patient is asymptomatic, within the two-day period before the date of COVID-19 positive diagnosis, are considered close contacts.

- People living in the same household as someone with COVID-19,
- Those who provide direct care to someone diagnosed with COVID-19,
- People who have face-to-face contact (talking, eating/drinking, etc.) with someone who has COVID-19 within less than 2 meters of space for more than 15 minutes in one go,
- People who have face-to-face contact (talking, eating/drinking, etc.) with someone who has COVID-19 within less than 2 meters of space for 15 minutes in total (for example, three separate 5-minute periods), or longer, in a period of 24 hours,
- People living in the same household/dormitory room as someone who has COVID-19,
- Students and instructors who have attended an in-person class which has a confirmed case of COVID - 19,
- People who come into physical contact (kissing, cuddling, hugging, etc.) with someone infected with COVID-19,
- People who have been in contact with the secretions (saliva, sputum, etc.) of someone infected with COVID-19, or with a COVID-19 patient having symptoms such as coughs and sneezes, without taking any preventive measures,
- People who have been in close proximity to someone who has COVID-19 in an indoor space within less than 2 meters of space for 15 minutes or longer (individuals sharing an office, a dormitory or hotel room with someone infected with COVID-19 and those who have travelled in the same vehicle with someone who is infected etc.)
- Passengers who have travelled on the same plane with someone who has COVID-19 sitting in two front, two back and side seats (if the infected passenger is sitting in an aisle seat, the closest people sitting in the front and rear diagonal seats are also considered contacts).

Close contacts need to stay in quarantine for 7 days if they are fully vaccinated, and for 10 days if they are not vaccinated, based on the date of their last contact. The last contact date of a close contact is considered as day zero. If COVID-19 symptoms develop in close contacts during the follow-up period, samples are taken by filiation teams. Close contacts who do not develop symptoms during the follow-up

period are asked to take a control PCR test on the 7th day if they are fully vaccinated and on the 10th day if they are not vaccinated. The quarantine of close contacts is terminated based on the negative test result of the 7th and 10th days.

Remote Contacts (Low-risk contacts)

People who have been interacted with someone who has COVID-19 while taking preventive measures **(wearing a mask that covers both the mouth and nose)** are considered low-risk contacts in the following situations:

- People who have been interacted with someone who has COVID-19 in an indoor space that is ventilated properly for more than 15 minutes wearing a mask,
- Students and instructors who are in the same classroom cohort with a confirmed COVID-19 case,
- Students and instructors who have attended an in-person class which has a confirmed case of COVID - 19,
- People who have been in close proximity to someone who has COVID-19 in an indoor space, without wearing a mask, for less than 15 minutes keeping a distance of more than 2 meters.

Low-risk contacts, who can keep working/studying wearing masks, are asked to monitor their symptoms of COVID-19 for 7 days and to have a PCR test on the 7th day from the day of their last contact with the person with COVID-19.

Procedures for the management of contacts:

Anyone who has been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 will be subject to quarantine. Individuals who are not vaccinated will be asked to take a PCR after completing a period of 10 days of self-isolation. Fully vaccinated people will take a PCR after completing the 7-day period. If the PCR tests are negative, the isolation period will end. The wristband quarantine process of contacts will be managed by the relevant team in accordance with the conditions stated above. **People who are not recorded as a contact in the database of the “Contact Tracing Team” will not be legally accepted as a contact and thus an official document stating that they are a contact will not be issued to such people.**

As it is known, the Filiation Team has the authority to make decisions on issues related to contacts and isolation. It is therefore important to act in line with the directives of the Filiation Team and to take into consideration its decisions on whether or not a contact will be able to keep working.

Health Center (Medico) can provide opinion and contribute to decisions if a hesitation occurs within our institution regarding the issue of contacts.

Contacts are identified in accordance with the decisions taken by the Filiation Team. No administrator or staff member is legally entitled to identify, and report, someone and/or themselves, as a contact of a confirmed COVID-19 case, and to avoid coming to work accordingly.

King regards,

Dr. Sıdıka Kayımbaşıoğlu

Dr. Öcal Korun