

## **WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF A POSITIVE PCR TEST RESULT<sup>1</sup>**

### **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION 1**

The microbiology laboratory reports the result to the National Public Health Centre. At the same time, the patient is reported by the Department of Hospital Hygiene to the National Public Health Centre's Infectious Disease Reporting System. Based on these, the epidemiology department of the relevant government agency can find the patient and take action: issue a "quarantine order", search for contacts, and send a "release order" after recovery. In order to be able to take action, we need the contact details of the patient, which we hope to find at Medsol at the time of reporting: the telephone number of the patient or relative and their exact address of residence.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION 2**

Patients will receive their test results via email if they gave their email address. If not, you can access the test result on [eeszt.gov.hu](https://eeszt.gov.hu) if registered at the Customer Site (Ügyfélkapu). After learning about the positive result, the patient must inform their workplace so that they can begin contact research. Positive patients must stay at home for 10 days and strictly follow the isolation rules below.

In the case of students, regular attendance sheets can help in contact research. They can also be used in cases that can be linked to events.

Students are asked to notify their classmates, supervisor, and the Dean's office so that those having been in contact with them can be informed about the exposure and, if it was of high risk, they can begin to isolate themselves.

### **VIRULENCE**

The patient may be infectious 2 days before the onset of symptoms or 2 days before taking a positive sample. Also, the virus can be detected with high certainty in an infected person 5 to 7 days after the infection or contact.

### **WHAT PATIENTS / ASYMPTOMATIC COVID-19 PCR POSITIVE INDIVIDUALS MUST DO**

Mild symptomatic patients must strictly undergo a 10-day quarantine, following the orders of the GP. After the end of the quarantine period, if asymptomatic, they can resume their normal routine and work, and no further examination is required.

Sampling is mandatory for health care workers with symptoms. First, with a rapid test; if negative, the sampling is to be repeated for PCR analysis. If positive, strict quarantine is required. Once the patient is clinically cured, or the COVID-19 infection was asymptomatic, return to work (in direct patient care) is conditional on the negative result of a rapid test for

<sup>1</sup> According to the National Public Health Center's policy valid from 07 November 2020.

SARS-CoV-2 Ag (**sampling must not be earlier than day 7 after the onset of clinical symptoms**).

On the 21<sup>st</sup> day after the onset of symptoms or the sampling confirming the infection, health workers must be released from the provisions of the ban on occupation and may return to work and be declared fit for work without the 2 negative test results.

#### **CONTACT RESEARCH**

Individuals must be tracked with whom the infected person has been in contact from the two days before the onset of symptoms until the time the infection is diagnosed (the details of high risk and low risk contacts can be found at the end of the document).

The **close contacts** of an infected person must be subjected to strict quarantine for 10 days, from which they cannot even go out for PCR testing (PCR testing for such individuals is not even obligatory). If they are asymptomatic after 10 days, they can return to work.

If the close contact is a health care worker, a patient, or a student intending to return to patient care practice, then a quick test should be performed when the contact is detected. If negative, a PCR test is to be performed. If this is also negative, isolation should be performed for 10 days, followed by a COVID-19 PCR test, under strict isolation.

If the 10<sup>th</sup>-day sample is negative, you can return to your workplace, to the university, and patients can move to the “green” hospital departments.

If requested by the person under observation, sampling at the time of ordering quarantine may be omitted and sampling may take place on days 4 and 6 after the contact. If these tests are negative, the tight isolation can be released, BUT the worker can only return to work if there is a negative sample on day 10.

#### **RISKS**

##### **High risk exposure (close contact):**

- ❖ A person living in a household with the COVID-19 patient;
- ❖ Neither the infected nor the contact person wore a mask;
- ❖ A person in direct physical contact with the COVID-19 patient (e.g. handshake);
- ❖ A person in contact with the infectious secretions of the COVID-19 patient without the use of a protective device (e.g. coughing or touching a used tissue);
- ❖ A person in personal contact with the COVID-19 patient (within 2 meters and longer than 15 minutes, e.g. eating, having coffee or smoking together);
- ❖ A person staying in a confined space with the COVID-19 patient (within 2 meters and longer than 15 minutes) [e.g. school classroom, office meeting, hospital waiting room];
- ❖ A healthcare worker involved in the direct care of the COVID-19 patient or a laboratory worker who treated samples of the COVID-19 patient without the use of the required personal protective equipment.

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**Low risk exposure (short or occasional exposure):**

- ❖ A person staying in an enclosed space with the COVID-19 patient for less than 15 minutes or outside a distance of 2 meters;
- ❖ A person travelling with the COVID-19 patient on public transport.

**IMPORTANT LINKS**

Home isolation rules

[https://semmelweis.hu/korhazhigiene/files/2020/03/COVID-19\\_home-isolation\\_2020-03-05\\_ENGLISH.pdf](https://semmelweis.hu/korhazhigiene/files/2020/03/COVID-19_home-isolation_2020-03-05_ENGLISH.pdf)

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