



30<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Deputy Robert Troy  
Dáil Éireann  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**PQ 19536/21 “To ask the Minister for Health the reason persons that have been identified as a Covid-19 close contact do not have to restrict their movements and can continue to travel to work and school.”**

Dear Deputy Troy,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question which has been referred by the Minister for Health to the Health Service Executive for direct response.

I wish to advise if a person is a close contact of a person that tests positive for Covid-19 (known as the index case), they need to get tested for Covid-19. They also need to restrict your movements (stay at home) for 14 days.

A person can stop restricting their movements **when both** the situations outlined below apply:

- They have a negative test (Covid-19 not detected) 10 days after they were last in contact with the person who tested positive for Covid-19
- They do not have any symptoms of Covid-19

Apart from the above situation which applies in the vast majority of instances, we can provide the following example in terms of ‘the reason persons that have been identified as a Covid-19 close contact do not have to restrict their movements’.

In the case of a *fully* vaccinated healthcare worker (HCW), if identified as a close contact, is not required to restrict their movements. The definition of fully vaccinated would depend on the type of vaccine given but again in the majority of instances to date would mean a HCW who has received their second vaccine dose of a two dose vaccine, and it is two weeks after that time period. This is the current situation based on existing Public Health guidance.

Please note there are a number of situations in which this position does not apply to the HCW and therefore to potential close contacts as listed below;

- The specified period following vaccination to achieve immunity has not yet been reached (this will depend on vaccine type etc.)
- The case concerned is a VOC (variant of concern)
- The person is known to have a medical condition or to be on a treatment that is expected to compromise the ability of their immune system to respond to vaccination
- A public health or occupational health risk assessment has identified other specific grounds for concern

I wish to advise this is the current position and is subject to ongoing review.

I trust this addresses your question.

Yours sincerely,

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**Niamh O'Beirne**  
National Lead Testing and Tracing