

The information provided on this page should not replace advice given directly to an individual by the Department of Health's contact tracing team.

Practices that have been Potentially exposed to Covid/Hotspot Close Contact

PLEASE NOTE: This protocol is for Practices that have adhered to the screening process, however discover after the patient appointment that the patient has the potential to have contracted Covid19 but was unaware of the listed hotspot.

Screening all patients' prior to their entry to the Practice must be the first protocol. Please have a list of all Hotspots (daily updated) for review by your Patients in a high visibility area.

Protocol Outline:

- **Close the Practice Immediately.**

Reschedule all of that day's appointments.

- **Decontaminate the entire Practice**

All rooms, including dental rooms, waiting areas, toilets, front office, staff rooms, steri.

All surfaces, including door handles, light switches, keyboards, pens, clipboards, equipment

- **Isolate/Quarantine**

All staff present in the practice from the time of the potentially exposed patients appointment are to go directly into Isolation and await the patients Covid19 test results. Staff can opt to get tested immediately, or await for the test results of the said patient.

If the result is **positive** for the patient, all team members onsite at time of patient appointment, are to get tested and quarantine for 14 days. Staff are then required to be tested and produce a negative test result prior to recommencing work 14 days after the exposure day.

If the patient reports a **negative** test result, the practice can resume normal operations.

How Contact Tracing works:

As part of the contract tracing process, contact tracers speak to positive cases and determine where they have been in the days they are possibly infectious.

When close and casual contacts in a location can be comprehensively traced such as a workplace, family's house, or friends house there is no need to publicly release the location, as all contacts are tracked and contacted as a priority.

However, when the positive case has visited publicly accessible locations and close and casual contacts are not as readily identifiable, the location is released to assist with the public health response.