

FACT SHEET: YOU ARE A CLOSE CONTACT OF A PERSON WHO TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

Last revised: November 9, 2020

COVID-19 is spread through close contact with an infected person. Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) uses [contact tracing](#) as an effective tool to slow and control the spread of COVID-19. SMDHU staff follow up with each COVID-19 case (someone who has tested positive for COVID-19). The information that is gathered helps us to understand where a person may have been exposed to the virus, how the virus is spreading in the community, who the virus is affecting, and how it can be contained. If you are identified as a close contact of a case, you will receive a call from Public Health Ontario or Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit contact tracing programs to discuss testing and isolation requirements.

WHAT IS A CLOSE CONTACT?

A close contact is someone who:

- lives in the same household or provides care to you,
- was within 2 meters (6 feet) of you for more than 15 minutes,
- had close physical contact with you, such as shaking hands, or hugging,
- may have been accidentally coughed, sneezed or spit on while talking,
- has been identified by the health unit as a close contact.

WHEN YOU HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS A CLOSE CONTACT OF A PERSON WHO HAS TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19, YOU ARE REQUIRED TO:

- Stay home and [self-isolate](#) for 14 days after your last contact with the person who tested positive for COVID-19.
- Only leave the house to get tested. It is recommended you seek testing 5-7 days from your last exposure to the case. For testing centre locations visit our [website](#).
- Monitor yourself for [symptoms](#) of COVID-19.
- If you do get tested you must still self-isolate while you wait for your results. **Even if your test result is negative you must continue to self-isolate for the full 14 days.**

HOW TO SELF-ISOLATE:

- Stay home.
- Avoid contact with others- keep your distance by at least 2 meters (6 feet).
- Wash your hands.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes.
- If you cannot maintain a 2 meter (6 feet) distance from others wear a mask over your nose and mouth when around others.
- For more detailed information on to self-isolate safely see [Public Health Ontario's Self-Isolation Fact Sheet](#).

WHAT IF I DEVELOP SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 WHILE I AM SELF-ISOLATING?

- Stay home and self-isolate for 10 days after your symptoms started.
- Only leave the house to get tested. For testing centre locations visit our [website](#). **NOTE: this means you may be tested twice. Once when you were identified as a close contact and didn't have symptoms, and again when you developed symptoms.**
- Contact the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit at 1-877-721-7520 ext. 5829 to let them know you are experiencing symptoms.
- After 10 days, you can stop isolating if you no longer have a fever and symptoms are improving for at least 24 hours, but you should continue with physical distancing measures. If you are still unwell at 10 days, contact Telehealth or your health care provider.