

COVID-19: What to do with suspected cases or if someone tests positive

In general, the following applies to suspected cases of COVID-19 (see [Definition: Suspected Case](#)):

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 - Stay home (work from home or use up holiday time and earned leave credits in coordination with supervisor).
 - Contact the hotline 1450 and call in sick (get a doctor's confirmation) if you show symptoms.
 - Inform your supervisor and the university (corona@vetmeduni.ac.at)!

COVID-19 suspected while outside of the university:

- Contact the health authorities immediately (tel. 1450). The authorities will decide on any necessary examinations and enquiries.
- Inform supervisor and send e-mail to corona@vetmeduni.ac.at.
- The respective institute, clinic or organisational unit identifies all potential contacts from the last 48 hours via [VetEasy-Kontaktdoku](#):
 - Name, telephone number, e-mail address, place of employment, occupation
- Potential high-risk contacts* should stay at home if possible (work from home, receive training, use up holiday time and earned leave credits in coordination with supervisor).
- Potential Level 1 Contacts* who are essential to the maintenance of ongoing operations (teaching, research, services) must come to work wearing FFP2 masks without exhalation valve (observing the prescribed breaks) as well as gloves and glasses/shield and significantly reduce any other social contacts.
- Potential Level 2 Contacts** must come to work wearing a surgical mask (or other mask covering the mouth and nose) and significantly reduce any other social contacts.

COVID-19 suspected while at Vetmeduni Vienna:

- Immediately isolate the person with an FFP2 mask without exhalation valve in a suitable room and avoid contact.
- Inform supervisor and send e-mail to corona@vetmeduni.ac.at.
- Contact the health authorities (tel. 1450). The authorities will decide on any necessary examinations and enquiries.
- All staff (co-workers of suspected case) should stay at their workplace, keep their distance from others, wear a surgical mask (or other mask covering the mouth and nose) and await further instructions. All contacts will be identified and informed.

Person testing positive for COVID-19:

- After a test, the authorities will establish contact promptly and decide on any necessary examinations and enquiries.
- Please send the test results to your supervisor and to corona@vetmeduni.ac.at immediately.
- All contacts from the last 48 hours will be forwarded to the authorities by the Rectorate office.

*/** Definition: Contact (updated 21 August 2020)

A contact (suspected infection) is a person who has been **close to a confirmed case** from the beginning of the infectious period (contagious contact) to the end of isolation. Infectiousness/contagiousness begins 48 hours before the onset of illness (appearance of symptoms) or, in asymptomatic cases, 48 hours before the collection of the sample that leads to the positive test result. The end of the infectious period cannot be stated with certainty at the moment.

A distinction is made between contacts with high-risk exposure (Level 1 Contacts) and contacts with low-risk exposure (Level 2 Contacts):

*Contact with high-risk exposure (Level 1 Contact):

- A person who has had direct physical contact with a confirmed case.
- A person who has had cumulative face-to-face contact with a confirmed case at a distance of ≤ 2 metres for 15 minutes or longer (especially household contacts).
- A person who has cared for a confirmed case (e.g. medical and nursing staff, family members or other caregivers).
- A person who has been in the same room with a confirmed case at a distance of ≤ 2 metres for 15 minutes or longer.
- A person who, regardless of the distance, was highly likely to have been exposed to a substantial concentration of aerosols (e.g. at parties).

**Contact with low-risk exposure (Level 2 Contact):

- A person who has had face-to-face contact with a confirmed case at a distance of ≤ 2 metres for less than 15 minutes or has been in the same room (e.g. classroom, meeting room, room at a healthcare facility) with a confirmed case at a distance of > 2 metres for 15 minutes or longer or at a distance of ≤ 2 metres for less than 15 minutes.

The classification of contacts and any further measures to be taken are decided by the authorities.