

# Information for people who have received a not detected result



You may be referred for a coronavirus test because:

- You are a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19;
- You have had symptoms of COVID-19 and a healthcare professional has referred you for testing;
- You are part of a workplace or healthcare setting screening (e.g. staff and residents in nursing homes).

Coronavirus test results will come back as COVID-19 positive / detected or COVID-19 not detected.

## How will the person be informed of a not detected result?

If the person has a not detected result, most people will receive a text message from 'HSE COVID19' with the following text:

This number has been provided as the contact for the coronavirus test of (Given Name), age (Age), taken on (date).

The HSE would like to confirm that this test did not detect COVID-19.

If (given name) still feels unwell, they should contact their G.P. to discuss the result. If (Given name) is a close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19, please continue to restrict movements for 14 days from the date of last contact.

More information is available at *HSE.ie*.

Where a mobile number is not available, the person will receive a telephone call from a CTC/ referring clinician.

## What should I do after receiving a not detected result?

If the person has symptoms and is not a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and they receive a not detected result, the person should self-isolate until 48 hours after the symptoms have ceased, as they may have another respiratory / other virus that they would not want to pass on to someone else. Thereafter, they will be asked to continue to restrict their movements for the remainder of the 14 days. They should contact their GP to discuss their result, particularly if they are still unwell. After this time, the person should continue to maintain social distancing and implement Government and Public Health guidance to protect themselves and others.

- If the person **has symptoms, and is a close contact** of someone with COVID-19. They should self-isolate until 48 hours after the symptoms have ceased, and restrict movements thereafter, until 14 days after last contact with the case.
- If the person **has no symptoms, and is a close contact** of someone with COVID-19, and they receive a not detected result, the person will be asked to continue to restrict their movements for 14 days after their last contact with the person confirmed to have COVID-19.

## Why are people who are close contacts and have a COVID-19 not detected test result asked to continue to restrict their movements?

Close contacts are asked to restrict their movements for 14 days as they may go on to develop symptoms at any point up to day 14 from the last date of contact with the person who has been

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diagnosed with COVID-19. Close contacts have a greater chance of getting COVID-19. The 14 days restricted movement is to stop other people, particularly older people and people with an underlying health condition in the community, from catching coronavirus from a close contact before they realise they are ill with COVID-19. This still applies if the person has received a COVID-19 not detected result. Everyone should practice good respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene at all times, but it is even more important when you are a close contact.

### **Why are some close contacts being referred for a second test?**

Even though the first test did not detect coronavirus the virus may still appear up to 14 days after someone has been exposed to it. That is why some people may be sent for a second coronavirus test. A CTC caller will arrange the second test if needed.