

## Dealing with positive Symptomatology for Inter County Teams

### 1. Positive case:

The process flow for dealing with positive symptomatology is included at the end of this document – please ensure you are familiar with it.

If there is a positive test, the player must cease all activity immediately.

A player who tests positive, in conjunction with the Team Doctor (or Covid officer if there is no Team Doctor) can make a preliminary assessment of who they believe to be close, and casual contacts, based on the TEAM ACTIVITY only in the previous 48 hours. This will be for guidance purposes only, with the intention that it can be used to assist Public Health when they seek such information.

Individuals that test positive will be contacted by public health typically within 48 hours to assess their close contacts. If all players & support team members adhere to GAA Covid protocols stringently other players are unlikely to be identified as a close contact from team activity following a public health assessment.

A copy of Section 3 of this document can be submitted to public health authorities when contacted, if players have been following the advice outlined. This will assist Public Health to assist them carry out close contact assessment.

It is also paramount that we all adopt public health advice outside GAA activity to minimize our risk of contracting Covid 19 or being identified as a close contact for the season ahead to protect ourselves, teammates and our families.

### 2. Close or Casual Contacts:

**Close** contacts are required to restrict their movements for 14 days and as such would be ineligible to participate in GAA Activity. **Casual** contacts do not have to restrict their GAA activity.

While it is at all times the ultimate responsibility of Public Health to determine who should be considered close or casual contacts, the broad questions that will be considered in terms of assessing potential close or casual contacts include:

- Has the individual had greater than 15 minutes face-to-face (<2 meters distance) contact with a case, in settings such as team meetings, dressing rooms, showers, while having a meal etc. and when not wearing a face covering
- Has the individual any household contacts on the panel?
- For those contacts who have shared a closed space with a case for longer than two hours, a risk assessment should be undertaken taking into consideration the size of the room, ventilation and the distance from the case.
- Has the player shared a car with anyone in the team setting?

When a guideline list of close contacts is established, this can be discussed with the relevant Public Health Authority and ideally help inform the ultimate decision on whether a player or backroom team member should be classified as a close or casual contact

### 3. Avoiding being classified as a Close Contact

As a general rule, close contacts are only assessed from those with whom an individual has been in contact within the previous 48 hours. On that basis, by far the most effective way of ensuring players are not considered close contacts of a positive case within the panel, is to ensure there is at least 48 hours between the team collectively meeting for training or games

Current practice suggests that the likelihood of being designated a casual contact is also hugely enhanced if the following protocols are being strictly observed:

- Players travel to training/games alone or with household members
- If travelling by bus, are wearing face coverings at all times and do not sit next to another person and are observing 2m social distancing.
- Ensuring the Health Questionnaire is accurately completed before each training session, including confirmation of temperature no higher than 37.5c
- Hands are sanitized regularly.
- Indoor team activities are restricted to 15 minutes in a well-ventilated room while wearing face covering and observing 2m spacing.
- During training session, sanitising stations for equipment and hands are available and used.
- Unnecessary physical contact such as Huddles /shaking hands is avoided
- Particular attention should be paid to dressing rooms/showers. These should only be used where considered necessary. Where being used:
  - If possible players should be divided into pods of 6/7 who share the same dressing room for no more than 15 mins wearing face covering while togging out.
  - The process is repeated for showering (without face covering) and togging in.
  - Consideration should be given to having a rota for use of dressing rooms and players living locally togging and showering at home.
- All meals are taken while observing 2m social distancing – where possible prepackaged meals should be taken home after training or games.

Players using a gym with team mates or coaches are highly likely to be regarded as close contacts in the event of a positive test. For that reason, it is strongly advised that all Gym attendance should be on an individual basis only

### 4. GAA Rapid Testing Programme

The GAA Rapid Testing programme can be utilized to test some or all players in the week of a game where Counties believe it is necessary to do so.

Process: The County Board (Covid Officer) or Team Doctor can make immediate phone contact with the GAA Player Welfare Manager **Kevin Leahy Ph: 00353858756600**. Priority will be given to teams who have a game in that particular week.

If rapid testing is required for the squad and backroom team, the County Board will submit a “Covid-19 Incident Report form” via the link that is provided by the GAA.

The GAA centrally will contact the Testing Provider to make an official request for testing to take place at an appropriate time, venue and date (likely to be the next evening)

The Testing provider will then commence their testing process:

STEPS	Test Outcome
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Squad members sent a link to register and book their testing slot on the secure platform – includes consent for testing</li> <li>2. Squad member turns up at their allocated timeslot to undergo Covid-19 testing</li> <li>3. All samples are then taken by courier to the relevant lab for analysis.</li> <li>4. Once samples are analysed (within 24 hours), results are imported to the squad members profile on the secure platform.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Squad member will be contacted by the Testing Provider by telephone &amp; informed. Result will also be sent electronically.</li> <li>2. Testing provider will also inform the approved personnel such as the Team Doctor, Covid-19 Safety Officer or another designated official</li> <li>3. In the event of a positive test, the Testing provider will inform Public Health authorities</li> </ol>

**Dealing with positive or suspected cases**

If a player, match or team official displays positive symptoms he/she should refrain from further activities until the following steps have been undertaken:



Individual with symptoms contacts GP – who arranges triage and testing if required



**Positive** Test

**Negative** Test



**NO FURTHER ACTION** (Player should be symptom free for 48 hours before returning to activity)

Contact tracing takes place by public health authorities who will determine who are close or casual contacts



Players/backroom personnel follow advice of Public Health if they fall into one of the below categories



Close Contact	Casual Contact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will be Tested</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Passive Follow Up for 14 days</li> </ul>

- Will undergo active follow up from Public Health
- Should be contacted every day
- Telephone GP immediately if unwell
- Don't leave home unless necessary
- Avoid Travel (within or outside of Ireland)

**GAA INVOLVEMENT – None until medical assessment and clearance to return (this is likely be at least 14 days)**

- Will be advised about their risk
- Should ring GP immediately if any symptoms develop

**GAA INVOLVEMENT – As normal as long as symptom free**