

Response options for COVID-19 scenarios



The response options for managing different types of COVID-19 scenarios—from casual contact cases through to confirmed cases:

Response Options	1 Casual contact	2 Close contact	3 Probable Case*	4 Suspected Case	5 Confirmed Case	
Monitor closely for symptoms	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	For information and advice call the National Coronavirus Health Information line 1800 020 080.
Seek advice regarding symptoms and testing	case by case	✓	✓	✓	✓	For severe symptoms which require immediate medical attention, call emergency services (shortness of breath should trigger concern). For mild symptoms: Call your GP, local public health unit on 1300 066 055.
Self-isolation	✗	advised	advised	✓	✓	Self-isolation is advised for close contacts, probable cases and people experiencing symptoms. (Anyone experiencing symptoms should wear a mask if they must be in a shared space with others.) Self-isolation is required for suspected cases. Self-isolation is required by Public Health Order for confirmed cases. Casual contacts (and all other children in ITC and residential care) are not required to self-isolate but must practice physical distancing.
Extended shifts (Individual Flexibility Arrangements)	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	Extended shifts can be used to support children and young people who are advised or required to self-isolate. In exceptional circumstances, DCJ may support extended shifts for children and young people with compromised immunity due to serious underlying medical conditions.
Moving young people into alternate accommodation settings	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	Children and young people can be moved to alternative accommodation settings where they are required to self-isolate, and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current accommodation doesn't meet criteria for self-isolation • Young person won't comply with self-isolation measures
Contacting the Police if a young person won't stay at home (should only be used as a last resort)	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	For young people who are required to self-isolate, or are symptomatic: Reasonable attempts should be made to educate the child or young person in care on the importance of isolating, and to get them to return home, before law enforcement action is considered. However, if Police support is required, Police can be contacted through Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000, or an appropriate police officer, or police liaison officer. If there is repeated non-compliance, a specific Public Health Order can be obtained that will enable Police to arrest a person in order to return them to their place of isolation. Casual and Close contacts (and all other children and young people in residential care): Do not contact the Police if a young person who is well and has not been directed to self-isolate leaves the house without a reasonable excuse. You should engage and educate the young person and support them to return to the house.

*Someone experiencing symptoms

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The advice in this fact sheet has been taken from the *Guidelines: Residential Care Settings for Young People in Out of Home Care (OOHC) and COVID-19*, prepared by the Department of Communities and Justice, in consultation with ACWA and an expert group of service providers, and the Australian Services Union (ASU).