

This message has been approved by Tanya Rowell, CEO of the Public Service Commission

-Please post this message for employees who do not have computer access-

Yesterday, Premier Dennis King and Chief Public Health Officer, Dr. Heather Morrison, announced important changes to self-isolation requirements for close contacts effective 8 a.m. today, February 24, and that PEI Vax Pass Program requirements will be discontinued as of February 28. For more information on yesterday's announcement, please click [here](#).

As of Thursday, February 24:

A [Household Close Contact](#) is someone who meets the definition of [close contact](#) and who lives in/spends time in the home with someone who has tested [positive for COVID-19](#), while that person was [infectious](#). This includes any guest(s) staying in the home overnight when the positive case was infectious. Household contacts must:

- [Isolate](#) for 96 hours (4 days) after last contact (day 0) with the positive case
- Exit isolation at 96 hours if asymptomatic with a negative [test](#) result on day 4 at a testing clinic
- Self-monitor for [symptoms](#) for 10 days since last exposure. Isolate immediately and get tested if symptoms appear
- For 10 days, do not visit high-risk settings or individuals (settings such as long-term care, community care and other congregate living facilities, childcare facilities, and individuals who may be at risk for severe COVID-19 outcomes). This 10 day restriction does not apply to staff who wear well-fitting masks and follow appropriate COVID-19 protocols, and children attending childcare facilities.

All other close contacts are [Non-household Close Contacts](#). Non-household close contacts must:

- For 4 days, follow enhanced measures:
 - Not required to isolate
 - Wear a properly fitted, three-layer cloth mask or medical mask outside your home (and as much as possible during physical/recreational activities)
 - Work from home as much as possible.
 - When at work, practice physical distancing including while eating or drinking.
 - Be [tested](#) on day 4 at a testing clinic.
- Self-monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 for 10 days since your last contact with the positive case.
- If symptoms develop, immediately [isolate](#) and get tested.
- For 10 days, do not visit high-risk settings or individuals (settings such as long-term care, community care and other congregate living facilities, childcare facilities, and individuals who may be at risk for severe COVID-19 outcomes). This 10 day restriction does not apply to staff who wear well-fitting masks and following appropriate COVID-19 protocols, and children attending childcare facilities.

We are a week into Step 1 of the [Moving On- Transition Plan to Living with COVID-19](#) and services continue to operate smoothly across the Civil Service. This is, in large part, a result of your adherence to [public health measures](#), support and commitment to safe and effective service delivery. **Thank you!**

As we continue to support a safe and careful transition through the 3-step Plan, **please remember that all civil service employees who can effectively and seamlessly work from home, are asked to do so over the next six weeks.** Those whose work is most efficiently performed onsite should continue to work at their place of employment, provided physical distancing and adherence to [public health measures](#) is

maintained at all times. Where feasible, meetings should be held remotely during this time. **Please follow up with your supervisor if you have any questions about your specific arrangement.**

Step 1: February 17 – March 17

- Store front services (e.g. Access PEI, LCC stores, Taxation Payments), museums, libraries, etc.: up to 50% capacity and are required to maximize use of space to allow for as much physical distancing as possible.
- **Wearing a mask** is required in indoor public places and workplaces where distancing cannot be maintained, see [Civil Service Mask Protocol](#).
- Assess the risk to yourself and to others before [travelling](#)
- Stay home if you aren't feeling well. [Get tested](#) if you have [symptoms of COVID-19](#), even after a previous negative test, and [self-isolate](#) until tested and until a negative result is received.
- **If you have tested positive for COVID-19, have been notified you are a close contact, have symptoms or concerns about possible COVID-19 exposure, and/or have been advised that you need to be tested and/or self-isolate, talk with your Supervisor as soon as possible.** Supervisors are to then work confidentially and directly with their HR Manager to confirm appropriate measures to be taken at the workplace as well as a plan for the employee's safe return. **Employees are not to return to work until they have consulted with their Supervisor and HR Manager.**
- Employees and clients who are required to self-isolate **are not** permitted to enter a Government site; per the [Civil Service COVID-19 Exclusion Policy](#).
- Workplaces to ensure measures remain in place to maintain physical distancing and monitoring of and adherence to same.
- [Get vaccinated](#) against COVID-19 if you are eligible, including getting a booster six months after last dose.
- Visitors coming into buildings are to be screened with the [Screening Script](#).
- Stay informed by checking www.princeedwardisland.ca/covid19 regularly for updates from the Chief Public Health Office.

Employee Assistance Program

EAP is available for confidential and professional counseling and resources at (902) 368-5738, (toll-free) 1-800-239-3826, or eap@gov.pe.ca. For more information, please see: <https://psc.gpei.ca/employee-assistance-program>.

If you and/or your team have additional questions and/or support needs, talk with your Supervisor or HR Manager.

Thank you,

Tanya