

## Guidance for construction sites – managing a COVID positive case

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### Follow the site [COVID Safety Plan](#)

Workers should notify the site owner if they test positive.

In the event of a positive case, sites should:

- seek advice from the local Public Health Unit (ph 1300 066 055) and comply with any instructions. Note that the demands on the Public Health Unit are high - if there is any delay in being able to contact the Unit, all reasonable action should be taken in the interim to follow the COVID safety plan and general health advice;
- identify contacts through use of team bubbles and tracing cards (where in use);
- identify other sites visited by the worker;
- notify SafeWork NSW or ComCare as relevant;
- advise staff, visitors, contractors of the situation, including symptoms of COVID-19 that they should monitor for;
- maintain the privacy and confidentiality of the person diagnosed;
- commence infection control measures.

### Decision to stay open, or close and re-open

A site does not necessarily have to close following detection of a confirmed case on the premises. Unless instructed to close by NSW Health, the site owner determines whether to stay open, or to close the site and re-open, based on:

- whether the premises will need to be closed to undertake appropriate cleaning<sup>1</sup>;
- advice provided by the Public Health Unit, but only if advised that a public health risk assessment has been undertaken by the Public Health Unit;
- the owner being satisfied there is no ongoing risk having taken all reasonable steps in accordance with their COVID Safety Plan and generally available health advice (eg are systems in place to identify and isolate all contacts of the worker, have workers complied with those systems);
- whether there is sufficient staff available (who are not close contacts and not needing to self-isolate) to remain operational.

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<sup>1</sup> NSW Health does not require that a specialist cleaning company be used. All areas used by any suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 should be cleaned and disinfected.