

**Information for Healthcare Providers:
Delivery of Test Results and Self-isolation Requirements**

Public Health informs people who are tested for COVID-19 of their results, positive or negative, and advises of any ongoing isolation requirements. Test results are typically delivered to people within 48-72 hours of testing, with some variation due to volume. Lab results for COVID-19 are also available on Share.

All people tested for COVID-19 are required to self-isolate pending the results of the test. People who are tested because they are considered 'exposed' (either through recent travel or as a close contact with a person who is COVID-19 positive) need to continue to isolate for the entire 14-day incubation period, even if results are negative.

The chart below outlines self-isolation advice being given based on various scenarios.

Please refer to the [LTCF directive](#) for additional isolation requirements in these facilities.

Information on self-isolation is available:

- [Information on how to self-isolate](#)
- [Know The Difference: Self-monitoring, Self-isolation, and Isolation for COVID-19](#)

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IF YOU...	AND YOUR TEST RESULT IS...	YOU MUST: (Isolation Direction)
Travelled outside of Nova Scotia in the last 14 days.	Negative	Continue to self-isolate for the 14 days after arriving in Nova Scotia.
Were in close contact of a positive case (defined and identified by Public Health).	Negative	Continue to self-isolate for 14 days since the last exposure to the positive case.
Tested based on symptoms alone, without travel or known exposure.	Negative	No longer required to self-isolate. Must continue with social distancing. Note: If symptoms persist it is reasonable to continue to stay home to prevent spread of any respiratory illness.
Are a healthcare worker who is a close contact of positive case or tested based on symptoms.	Negative	Contact Occupational Health at NSHA or IWK to determine return to work. Public Health will advise HCW in non-NSHA LTCF.
Have been diagnosed with COVID-19 (All cases except healthcare workers and admitted patients).	Positive	Continue to isolate until meets definition of recovered*, as determined by daily Public Health follow-up.
Are a healthcare worker	Positive	Contact Occupational Health at NSHA or IWK to determine return to work. Public Health will advise HCW in non-NSHA LTCF.

*Recovered: An individual who has been placed on home isolation due to the presence of COVID-19 symptoms can stop home isolation a minimum of 10 days after the onset of their first symptom provided they are afebrile and have improved clinically. Absence of cough is not required for those known to have chronic cough or who are experiencing reactive airways post-infection. These criteria do not apply to hospitalized patients.