
TO: ALL SMS MEMBERS/ CHIEF DIRECTORATES / DIRECTORATES / REGIONAL / DISTRICT OFFICES, SUB-STRUCTURES / ALL FACILITY MANAGERS/ CITY OF CAPE TOWN / HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS / PRIVATE SECTOR

CIRCULAR H 03 /2022

CONTACT TRACING, ISOLATION, QUARANTINE AND TESTING: WITHDRAWAL OF H 221/2021

Circular H 221/2021 based upon the now withdrawn national guidelines on contact tracing, quarantine, isolation and testing had still been in place in the province until now as we had been awaiting an announcement on the replacement of the national circular.

Whilst the basis of H 221/2021, based upon the national circular, has much scientific merit and had been thought through carefully, it does conflict with existing legislative prescripts which had not changed. As a result, H 221/2021 must now be withdrawn.

The implication of the withdrawal of H 221/2021 is that we would automatically then revert to the policy positions that were in place before H221/2021 was issued. The attached table below summarises the H221/2021 positions, and the prior positions to which we have to revert to.

One of these prior positions is the quarantine of HCWs contained in Circular H 219/2021. The DOH Guidelines state that, by agreement, HCW's can test on day 5 and if negative and well, to return to work and follow restrictions. We will therefore have to revert to this position as contained in the DOH Guidelines.

We would however continue to discuss the merits contained within Circular H 221, as we believe that these suggestions are both rational and reasonable.

Once we have clarified these issues and the NDOH has provided clear guidelines we will re-issue a circular with the revised positions.

National DoH Retracted Policy and H221/2021	Revert to Previous Position (previous circulars operational again)
Contact Tracing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stopped Contact Tracing as default position. • Active Contact Tracing in congregate settings and outbreak situations 	Contact Tracing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passive Contact tracing as default position. • Active Contact Tracing if there is a risk of an outbreak at congregate settings who are at risk of severe disease
Quarantine: All quarantine is stopped	Quarantine: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarantine for 5 days for health staff, test on day 5 and if negative and well return to work and follow appropriate restrictions • All other people quarantine for 10 days • Quarantine is not required if had prior infection <90 days ago
Testing: No testing is required for patients who are asymptomatic	Testing: No testing is required for patients who are asymptomatic, except for asymptomatic pre-operative patients
Isolation of Asymptomatic cases: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Isolation required • Watch for symptoms for 7 days 	Isolation of Asymptomatic cases: Isolate for 10 days from date of testing
Isolation of Mild cases (not hospitalised): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isolate for 8 days from date of symptoms • Health care worker returning to work after Day 8 of isolation must wear a N95 mask at all times (time period for N95 wearing not stated) • No need for Covid-19 test after isolation period. 	Isolation of Mild cases (not hospitalised): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isolate for 10 days from date of symptoms • No need to wear a N95 mask after isolation complete • No need for Covid-19 test after isolation period
Isolation of Severe cases (Hospitalised): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isolate for 10 days from date of clinical stability • Health care worker returning to work after Day 10 of isolation must wear a N95 mask at all times (time period for N95 wearing not stated) • No need for Covid-19 test after isolation period. 	Isolation of Severe cases (Hospitalised): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isolate for 10 days from date that no longer requires supplemental oxygen • No need to wear a N95 mask after isolation complete • No need for Covid-19 test after isolation period



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DDG: CHIEF OF OPERATIONS

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