Quarantine protocol for management of contacts of COVID-19 positive cases

Preface
As of November 21st 2020, the quarantine period on Aruba has been reduced from 14 to 10 days. In May 2021, an exception of quarantine was introduced for fully vaccinated individuals in addition to those who recently tested positive for COVID-19 (see below). In the light of new evidence that even those protected are at risk of becoming infected with SARS-CoV-2 and transmitting this to others, as of December 15th 2021, these exceptions only apply when the new cases per day (7-day sliding average) is below 21 new cases per day. Thus, when the 7-day sliding average is equal to or above 21 new cases per day for one consecutive week (7 days in a row), these exceptions do not apply anymore.

Protocol for contacts

THOSE LIVING IN THE SAME HOUSEHOLD AS A COVID-19 POSITIVE PERSON AND ALL OTHER CLOSE CONTACTS¹ IDENTIFIED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

This can include partners, colleagues, people who may have visited like friends, a babysitter or anyone else providing in-home services (e.g. maid, caregiver, etc.).

➢ 10 days compulsory quarantine starting from the last contact with the positive person.
➢ Monitor symptoms closely during this period.
➢ At appearance of the slightest symptoms, stay home and contact general physician for testing.

Exceptions for whom quarantine is not required (only when the 7-day sliding average is below 21 new cases per day)

¹ Close contact: someone who has been within 1.5 meter for more than 15 minutes OR someone who has been within 1.5 meter for less than 15 minutes with a high-risk contact for infection (such as coughing, hugging and kissing) in the period from 2 days before symptom onset until isolation discontinuation, irrespective of whether the person with COVID-19 or the contact was wearing a mask. Source: Protocol bron- en contactonderzoek COVID-19 | LCI richtlijnen (rivm.nl)
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December 17th 2021

1. **Those who have tested positive for covid-19 within the past 6 months (<6months)**
2. **Those who are fully vaccinated when contact with the positive case takes place**
3. **Those who have experienced COVID-19 (confirmed by PCR test) and subsequently received one dose, even for 2-dose vaccines (only for those below 80 years old)**

Individuals are considered fully vaccinated 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer, AstraZeneca and Moderna vaccines, or 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen vaccine. Thus, these criteria should be met when contact with the positive case takes place for exemption to be granted. They have to able show the proof of vaccination or give the Department of Public Health permission to verify this in the Aruba Health App dashboard. Only FDA and EMA authorised vaccines (Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, AstraZeneca, Janssen) are recognized in Aruba.

Those exempted from the quarantine requirement, however, must monitor themselves for symptoms, strictly adhere to the preventive measures set forth by the Department of Public Health (social distancing, hand hygiene, mask use, etc.) and avoid/minimize close contact with unvaccinated older adults and persons with underlying risk factors. Especially if living in the same household as a COVID-19 positive person (but infected within the past 3 months), one should regularly wash or clean their hands to reduce the risk of transmission through surfaces. If they develop symptoms, they should stay home and get tested (they can do so by requesting a code through arubacovid19.org/test). If positive, they will be treated as a new case.

**ALL OTHER CONTACTS**

- If and where possible, self-quarantine for 10 days starting from the last contact with the positive person and monitor symptoms closely during this period. At appearance of the slightest symptoms, stay home and contact general physician for testing.

**Rules and conditions for safe and effective quarantine**

- Those who are in mandatory quarantine must be placed in adequately ventilated, spacious single rooms with hand hygiene and toilet facilities.
- If single rooms are not available, beds should be placed at least 1 meter apart and a distance of at least 1 meter should be maintained from other household members at all times. NOTE: Adequate air ventilation is essential.
- Social distancing and hand and respiratory hygiene should be strictly adhered to at all times.
- Minimize the use of shared spaces and cutlery.

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5 More than 1, 5 meter but in the same room for an extended period of time (≥ 1 hour).

6 These days are not covered by SvB. This can be done by coming to an agreement with employer, working from home or by taking holidays.
➢ Ensure that shared spaces such as the kitchen and bathroom are well ventilated.
➢ Persons sharing a household with someone in mandatory quarantine may leave the house as long as there are no positive cases living in the same household and they adhere to the above-mentioned rules and the requirements.
➢ Older persons and those with comorbid conditions require special attention because of their increased risk for severe COVID-19.

Follow-up and control procedure for quarantined persons

- Follow-up of persons who are quarantined is conducted for the duration of the quarantine period. This is done by phone and includes monitoring of symptoms.
- Any person in quarantine who develops the slightest symptom at any point during the quarantine period is treated and managed as a suspected case of COVID-19 and will be referred for testing.
- In the case of violation of mandatory quarantine instructions, a fine can be imposed.