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Identifying close contacts of COVID-19 patients

A close contact is a person who has had any one of the following exposures to a confirmed case:

- 1. face-to-face contact with a probable or confirmed case within 1 meter and for at least 15 minutes;
- 2. direct physical contact with a probable or confirmed case;
- 3. direct care for a patient with probable or confirmed COVID-19 disease without the use of recommended PPE;
- 4. other situations as indicated by local risk assessments

Exposure must have occurred during the infectious period of the case, and defined as follows:

- Exposure to a symptomatic case: 2 days before and 5 days after onset of symptoms of the case.
- Exposure to an asymptomatic case: 2 days before and 5 days after the date on which the sample that led to confirmation was taken.

In the indoor classroom setting, if the student(s) were beyond 1 meter of an infected student and if both the infected student and the exposed student(s) **wore masks** and **if no face to face contact**, there is no need for quarantine. Only the unvaccinated students who fall into the definition of close contact should be quarantined.

Dr. ASELA GUNAWARDENA Director General of Health Services

Dr Asela Gunawardena Director General of Health Services

s Ministry of Health "Suwasiripaya" 385, Rev. Baddegama Wimalawansa Thero Mawatha, Colombo 10.

<u>Copies:</u> Secretary, Ministry of Health Secretary, Ministry of Educati