A guide for households on when to test for COVID-19 and how long to isolate for

The following scenarios are based on a family of four living in the same household

Adult 1
Adult 2
Child 1
Child 2

SCENARIO 1

Adult 1 is tested and is positive.

Adult 1 must isolate for 10 days.
Everyone else in the household must isolate for 14 days.

SCENARIO 2

Child 1 is displaying one of the classic symptoms of COVID-19.

Child 1 must isolate for 10 days (or longer if need be) until fit and healthy.
Everyone else must isolate for 14 days.
If child 1 returns a negative test result then isolation ends for each household member with immediate effect.
If no result is obtained and the symptoms are reported as COVID-based symptoms, then isolation periods and the fit and healthy criteria should be adhered to.

SCENARIO 3

Adult 2 has tested positive and the household is isolating. Child 1 is subsequently tested and is negative.

Adult 2 must isolate for 10 days (or longer if need be) until fit and healthy.

Everyone else must isolate for 14 days.

A negative test result only means that you are not infected at the time of the test – the extended 14 day isolation period for contacts of a positive case is to allow for transfer, infection and recovery to be realised.

SCENARIO 4

Child 1 has been to a party and has no symptoms. TTP identifies that there was a positive case at the party who was infectious at the time, but did not display symptoms. TTP identify Child 1 as a contact of the infected person.

Child 1 must isolate for 14 days from the date of the party (the point of exposure) – this will be communicated to them through TTP. Everyone else can continue as normal.

If Child 1 develops symptoms during isolation, they should book a test.
If negative, they must still isolate for the duration.

If positive, then the household must isolate for 14 days from the onset of symptoms and the child must isolate for 10 days from onset of symptoms.