

## MEMORANDUM

To	Netball WA Association & GIG WANL Presidents & Primary Contacts
From	Liz Booth, General Manager – Community Netball
Re.	Change to COVID Contact Tracing
Date	Friday, 4 March 2022

Good afternoon, Association & GIG WANL Presidents & Primary Contacts,

Netball WA advises that there has been a change to the way in which Covid contact tracing will be managed by the Department of Health (DoH).

To date the DoH have played the sole role of contact tracing in the instance there is a Covid case, however as we move into a new phase of the pandemic management the focus of WA Health will be on high-risk settings, e.g. Residential Aged Care Facilities, remote Aboriginal communities, etc. and the expectation is that businesses, facilities, sporting organisations and service providers be required to play a more involved role in managing communications.

Guidance materials provided by the DoH are available at: [COVID19 Information for Business & Industry](#)

### WHY IS THE GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT OF COVID-19 CASES CHANGING?

The high caseloads with the Omicron variant have necessitated a change in processes. WA Health has transitioned to focus contact tracing in areas with the greatest public health benefit and protection of at-risk populations. In line with other Australian states, WA no longer uses a casual contact definition, meaning casual contacts will no longer be required to test and isolate as a matter of course.

### WILL WA HEALTH STILL CONTACT ME TO ADVISE THAT SOMEBODY IN MY SPORT HAS BEEN CONFIRMED AS COVID-19 POSITIVE?

WA Health will contact all positive cases by text message. **It will no longer advise you if you are a close contact.** As caseloads rise sporting clubs, venues, associations and clubs will need to play a role in the COVID response at a local level.

### HOW DO I KNOW IF THERE HAS BEEN A CLOSE CONTACT IN MY SPORT?

The State Government definition of a close contact is as follows;

- 1 - You are a household member or intimate partner of a person with COVID-19 and have had contact with them during their infectious period;
- 2 - You have had close personal interaction with a person with COVID-19 during their infectious period.



This includes if you have:

- a) had at least 15 minutes face-to-face contact where a mask was not worn by **both** you and the person with COVID-19;
- b) greater than two hours within a small room or classroom environment with a case during their infectious period, where masks have been removed for this period;

3 - You have been advised by WA Health that you are a close contact.

Based on these definitions it is more likely that close contacts would occur pre and post-match in changing rooms, common/social areas, drop off points etc., where larger groups of people may spend a longer amount of time in close proximity.

The DoH have stressed the application of the above definitions even in the sport setting. So, despite the level of contact within a sport, if participants do not meet the above definitions, they are **not** deemed close contacts.

#### **WHAT SHOULD WE DO WHEN THERE HAS BEEN A CASE?**

Based on the Government definitions, you will need to make a determination as to whether there has been a situation that triggers the definition of a Close Contact. Noting that applying the current definitions will mean it is unlikely someone will be a close contact during the game/event, but it may happen off the playing arena.

You should notify all participants, officials and coaches and we have provided example templates for you to use (attached).

Included with this memorandum is a document that will provide you with additional information related to Contact Tracing, roles, responsibilities and resources (attached Powerpoint).

#### **Further Information**

The netball community is also encouraged to remain informed via the State Government's COVID 19 Information and Advice website and the Netball WA website [Netball WA COVID 19 Protocols](#).

Please note that this information will be discussed at the Netball WA Presidents' Meeting on Thursday, 10 March. If in the meantime you have any questions or require clarification, please email [covidinfo@netballwa.com.au](mailto:covidinfo@netballwa.com.au).

Thank you for your cooperation and support.

