

Appendix Six: Contact categorising

This table provides the public health risk assessment for categorising contacts. Note that use of a face covering or mask may change the contact categorisation:

- consistent use of a mask by a case will minimise the likelihood that other staff or students are Close Contacts. Wearing a mask for the entire day is very difficult. Short time periods without wearing a mask (less than 15 minutes) will not change the categorisation of other contacts in the same space, unless the case was coughing, sneezing or shouting at the time (see first box).
- as years 3 and below will not be wearing face coverings the Red settings, the 'No or unknown' face covering worn by case column should be used.

	Type of interaction	Examples	Face covering worn by case ¹	
			Yes	No or unknown
Close range contact within 1.5m of case	Direct contact with respiratory secretions or saliva (indoors or outdoors) OR Face to face contact with a case who is forcefully expelling air/secretions FOR ANY DURATION OF TIME REGARDLESS OF FACE COVERING USE	Singing, shouting, coughing, sneezing Active play in close proximity (heavy breathing related to exertion) Kissing, spitting, hongis, sharing cigarettes or vapes	Close	Close
	Indoor face to face contact for more than 15 minutes	Playing together, having a conversation, sitting across a table from someone, eating together	Casual	Close
	Non-face to face contact for more than 1 hour in an indoor space	Sitting or playing near someone	Casual	Close
Higher risk indoor contact more than 1.5m away from case and no close-range contact	Indoor contact in a small space without good airflow/ventilation* for more than 15 minutes	Indoor licensed space, staff rooms, office, sick bay, toilets, service transport	Casual	Close
	Indoor contact in a moderate sized space without good airflow/ventilation for more than 1 hour	Large indoor licensed space, staff rooms, kindy gym	Casual	Close
Low risk contact (no close-range contact or higher risk indoor contact)	Large indoor settings (bigger than 300m ²) if none of the criteria above are present	Visit to a school hall	Casual	Casual
	Smaller indoor venues (less than 300m ²) with good air flow-ventilation for up to 2 hours	Well ventilated rooms/offices (e.g., windows open)		
	Brief indoor contact regardless of distance from case	Passing each other in the corridor, sharing an elevator	Casual	Casual
	Contact in outdoor spaces FOR ANY DURATION OF TIME	Walking outside with friends; Non-contact sports; active play without close proximity; Playground activities		

*Good air flow and ventilation is required to prevent virus particles accumulating in an indoor space. Good ventilation/airflow can be achieved by keeping windows open. Please refer to page 4 for guidance on ventilation.

¹ For masks to be effective, it is important they are of sufficient quality (medical or multilayer cloth masks) are worn. Mask breaks are recommended to improve compliance over a workday. Masks should be changed if they become wet or dirty.