



November 3, 2021

### **OCPHO Directive – Change in management of all household contacts of COVID-19 cases**

The Office of the Chief Public Health Officer (OCPHO) is changing the advice regarding management of household contacts of COVID-19 cases. Previously, the COVID chapter (reference) and Algorithm (reference) recommended the completion of a risk assessment of household contacts of covid cases who were fully vaccinated to either self-monitor or isolate depending on further contact and risk of transmission.

During the most recent delta variant outbreak, household transmission illustrated that fully vaccinated household contacts get covid. Household transmission is one of the highest risk exposures in NWT due to close and prolonged contact with inability to safely self-isolate from case. In some instances, 100% of households became infected, including those who were fully vaccinated. The CPHO is updating the COVID-19 chapter (reference) and algorithm (reference) to reflect the following CHANGE:

**ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS OF AN IDENTIFIED COVID-19 CASE MUST ISOLATE, REGARDLESS OF VACCINATION STATUS.**

In addition to this recommendation, OCPHO continues to recommend that cases should be encouraged and assisted to isolate in a separate location whenever possible from household members in order to protect household members from further risk of transmission within the household.

The recommended changes will be made in the COVID-19 chapter along with other updates once finalized however **this directive is to be implemented immediately** and shared widely with all clinicians and public health staff managing covid cases and contacts. Please ensure any process or workflow documents within clinical or public health areas that have previously been created to assist with case and contact management reflect this change immediately.

Sincerely,

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Chief Public Health Officer