



衛生防護中心
Centre for Health Protection

**Scientific Committee on Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases
and
Scientific Committee on Vaccine Preventable Diseases**

**Updated Consensus Interim Recommendations on
the Quarantine requirements for Vaccinated Close Contacts of
Locally acquired cases of COVID-19
(As of 13 May 2021)**

The Scientific Committee on Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases (SCEZD) and the Scientific Committee on Vaccine Preventable Diseases (SCVPD) under the Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health, joined by the Chief Executive's expert advisory panel (EAP), following the discussion in the last meeting on 22 April 2021, has further reviewed the criteria concerning the shortening of quarantine period for fully vaccinated close contacts of confirmed coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases and made recommendations based on the prevailing scientific understandings on COVID-19 and COVID-19 vaccines.

2. The criteria for shortening of quarantine period for fully vaccinated close contacts of confirmed COVID-19 cases are as follows:

Close contacts of locally acquired cases who do not have key mutation(s) indicating possible variants of concern (VOC) defined by the World Health Organization (WHO)

3. For close contacts of locally acquired cases who do not have key mutation(s) indicating possible VOC defined by WHO, the duration of compulsory quarantine can be shortened from 14 days of quarantine in quarantine centres to 7 days of home quarantine



with electronic monitoring, counting from the last day of exposure to the confirmed case (day of last exposure regarded as Day 0), provided the following three criteria have been satisfied:

- (a) Documented proof of completion of two doses of CoronaVac or BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines, and 14 days have passed from the date of receiving the second dose#; **and**
- (b) Results of polymerase chain reaction (PCR) of the respiratory specimen taken on Day 0/Day 1 after admission to quarantine centres is negative; **and**
- (c) Positive IgG/total antibody against SARS-CoV-2 spike protein/surrogate neutralising antibody, taken after admission to quarantine centres.

4. During the period of home quarantine, the close contact should have a deep throat saliva (DTS) specimen taken on Day 5 after last exposure to the confirmed case. After completing the 7-day home quarantine, the close contact will be subject to 7 days of self-monitoring, and to Day-12 compulsory testing at community testing centres.

Close contacts of locally acquired cases detected to have key mutation(s) indicating possible VOC defined by WHO

5. For close contacts of locally acquired cases detected to have key mutation(s) indicating possible VOC defined by WHO, the duration of quarantine in quarantine centres can be shortened from 21 days to 14 days after the last day of exposure *plus* 7 days self-monitoring, counting from the last day of exposure to the confirmed case. They are also subject to Day-19 compulsory testing at community testing centres, provided the following three criteria have been satisfied:

- (a) Documented proof of completion of 2 doses of CoronaVac or BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines, and 14 days have passed from the date of receiving the second dose#; **and**
- (b) Results of polymerase chain reaction (PCR) of the respiratory specimens taken on Day 0/Day 1 after admission to quarantine

centres, and those taken on Day 7 and Day 12 after last exposure to the confirmed case, are all negative; **and**

- (c) Positive IgG/total antibody against SARS-CoV-2 spike protein/surrogate neutralising antibody, taken after admission to quarantine centres.

The following persons are regarded as satisfying criteria (a) –

- (1) Close contacts who had documented past infection of COVID-19 within 9 months after discharge, OR
- (2) Close contacts who had documented past infection of COVID-19 more than 9 months after discharge plus one dose of CoronaVac or BioNTech, and 14 days have passed from the date of receiving the dose.

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