

Appendix Six: Contact categorisation table

This table provides the public health risk assessment for categorising contacts. **Note** that as years 3 and below will not be wearing face coverings in Alert Level 3 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	Kissing, spitting, hongi, sharing cigarettes or vapes Singing, shouting, coughing, sneezing Contact sports (heavy breathing related to exertion)	Close	Close
	Indoor face to face contact for more than 15 minutes	Having a conversation, sitting across a table from someone, playing closely together	Casual plus if < 2 hours Close if > 2 hours	Close
	Non-face to face contact for more than 1 hour in an indoor space	Sitting near someone in class or assembly but not having a conversation	Casual plus if < 2 hours Close if > 2 hours	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	Classroom, staff rooms, office, sick bay, toilets, school bus	Casual Plus if < 2 hours Close if > 2 hours	Close
	Indoor contact in a moderate sized space without good airflow/ventilation for more than 1 hour	Gymnasium, hall, train, innovative learning environment (ILE)	Casual Plus if < 2 hours Close if > 2 hours	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	Auditorium	Casual	Casual
	Smaller indoor venues (less than 300m ²) with good air flow-ventilation for up to 2 hours	Well ventilated classrooms/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 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 It is unclear how long a mask provides protection from infection when a contact is in close-range contact with a case or is present in the same indoor spaces. Therefore, mask use should only be used to down-categorise contacts when the close-range contact is for less than 2 hours. This advice may change as more evidence becomes available.