

On 24 March 2022 the Health Minister issued a COVID-19 Test, Trace and Protect Transition Plan [COVID-19 Test, Trace and Protect Transition Plan | Department of Health \(health-ni.gov.uk\)](https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/covid-19/test-trace-and-protect-transition-plan). This recognised that we are now in a very different stage of the pandemic. In the context of an effective vaccination programme, high levels of population immunity and new treatments for those at highest risk, it is time to move to a more targeted approach, focusing test and trace activity on those who are most vulnerable and at highest risk of serious illness should they contract COVID-19.

The changes to testing, contact tracing and self-isolation which came into effect on 22 April are available at [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): contact tracing | nidirect](https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/coronavirus-covid-19-contact-tracing) and [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): self-isolating and close contacts | nidirect](https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/coronavirus-covid-19-self-isolating-and-close-contacts).

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