

## COVID-19 IMPORTANT NEWS AND UPDATES

### Winter update

Date: 1<sup>ST</sup> DEC 2021

Dear Everyone,

The COVID-19 infection rates are predicted to be higher this winter. There is also a [new variant Omicron](#) which increases the threat of infection. All staff must be vigilant and read the following guidance.



**Vaccinations: We are encouraging all staff to have the following vaccinations taken:**

**Winter flu vaccine, Booster Jab and there 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of COVID-19 Vaccine.**

**Carers Forward will not be held responsible if you contract the virus without taking your vaccinations.**

**Infection control:** Hand washing and disinfecting after each care routine must be carried out. Hand gels and PPE can be collected from the office.

**Aprons MUST BE WORN:** you must wear this OVER YOUR UNIFORMS to prevent risk of cross contamination. Staff should not deliver personal care without an apron.

**Face Masks:** Staff should continue to wear face masks and on public transport including taxis. It should cover your nose and mouth.

**Social gathering and family events:** Please think twice before attending large gatherings, maintain social distancing and where a mask when you can.



**Asymptomatic staff testing:**

We advise that all staff take a weekly PCR test on the same day each week (between Thursday and Sunday). All tests should be registered using your Unique Organisation Number (UON).

**If anyone tests positive they must inform their line manager and self-isolate straight away in line with [government guidelines](#).**

**If a staff member is a contact of someone who tests positive for COVID-19 (Delta):**

Staff members notified that they are a contact of a Delta COVID-19 case are not required to self-isolate if they are fully vaccinated (double jabbed plus two weeks). They should inform their manager immediately if they are required to work in the 10 days following their last contact with a Delta COVID-19 case and come to work only after receiving a negative PCR test result. In addition, they should undertake LFD tests for 10 days following contact, including on days they are not at work.

For further guidance about staff members working following contact, please see [here](#).

Please note, this does not apply to:

- those who have tested positive for COVID-19
- those who are not vaccinated or partly vaccinated
- those with [symptoms](#)
- those in contact with an Omicron COVID-19 case (informed by your Health Protection Team or by text or email)

If a staff member is not fully vaccinated, they should self-isolate at home following contact and should not come into work. Guidance has been taken from NHS TEST AND TRACE which can be updated at any time.

**Working with clients with possible COVID-19 symptoms:** you are all expected to follow the infection control procedures and let us know immediately if there are any changes to your clients health e.g. cough, headaches, high temperature, feeling run down.

**Handover sheets and session logs:**

ALL staff must report on the APP any client behaviour or health care changes. Next year, we will be minimising the use of paper and carers need to start recording logs on the APP.

