

All Employee Communication from The Managing Director - COVID-19, 13 August 2021, no.52

I hope that this latest briefing finds you and your family well.

This message contains important information following the First Minister's announcement on 3 August 2021 regarding the easing of COVID restrictions to move to beyond level 0 restrictions from 9 August 2021.

Although the move to beyond level 0 restrictions will entail the lifting of many of the legally imposed COVID-19 restrictions, as a responsible employer, Tayside Contracts will continue to adopt measures to mitigate risk and protect employees from the transmission of COVID-19 in the workplace. This communication outlines what this means for Tayside Contracts employees.

Risk Assessments and Control Measures

It is important to re-iterate that although the guidance from the Scottish Government has changed, our existing risk assessments and control measures remain in place. It is testament to these processes and procedures, and the hard work of everyone in Tayside Contracts in keeping each other safe, that we have managed to successfully suppress the transmission of the virus within our workplaces and it is vital that we continue to keep these protective measures going, while carrying out our duties.

We are currently reviewing our risk assessments in light of the Scottish Government announcement and will be in a position to publish the revised risk assessments shortly. All existing Tayside Contracts' COVID-19 risk assessments are published on our website here.

Contact Tracing and Self-isolation

One of the most significant changes announced by the First Minister was to the guidance on self-isolation for close contacts of positive cases. The NHS self-help guide can be found here and further information is available in the FAQ document on our website.

There has been no change to current guidance for those with symptoms or testing positive. Please continue to follow the NHS guidance which can be found here or the FAQ document on our website.

Physical Distancing

Despite the change to the guidance issued by the Scottish Government, for now Tayside Contracts will continue to maintain 2m physical distancing in all of our buildings and work activities. This is currently under review, and I will advise you of any changes to this risk assessment following the review.

Use of Face Coverings

There is no change to Tayside Contracts' current guidance on the use of face coverings. A reminder of the guidance on appropriate face coverings can be found on our website here.

Universal Lateral Flow Testing

The Scottish Government is encouraging everyone who does not have symptoms of COVID-19 to carry out twice weekly at home testing to help identify the virus early. Lateral flow tests are available to order online or can be picked up at your nearest test site or pharmacy. Further information on lateral flow testing can be found in the FAQ document on our website.

Lateral Flow Testing for School and Early Learning and Childcare Setting Based Employees

School and nursery-based employees will continue to be provided with home testing LFD kits, which I strongly encourage you to use twice per week to contribute to the wellbeing of our school community. If you were unable to collect a pack of LFD test kits at the end of term, in order to re-start testing only, you can also order a test kit yourself online for home delivery or collect from your nearest test site or pharmacy.

If you have yet to consent to participate in the testing programme but now wish to do so, please click [here](#) and select the appropriate LFD Testing Letter i.e. Angus, Dundee or P&K. Please note that you will not be issued with a testing kit from a school/nursery unless you have completed and returned both consent forms.

Those in the highest risk group (previously those on the shielding list)

The Chief Medical Officer (CMO) has written to everyone on the list so say that it is safe for those in the highest risk group to go into work if you cannot work from home. It is essential that strict adherence to the risk assessments and control measures mentioned above are followed by those in the highest risk group. If you are in the highest risk group and have any concerns that you would like to discuss further, please contact your line manager in the first instance or a member of the HR Services Team.

Summary of Tayside Contracts' Current Position

no change to current guidance for those with symptoms or testing positive
all employees will continue to maintain 2m physical distancing in all of our buildings/work activities
no change to Tayside Contracts' current guidance on the use of face coverings
it is safe for those in the highest risk group to go into work if you cannot work from home
school and nursery-based employees will continue to be provided with home testing LFD kits

Should you have any questions about any of the topics in this briefing please speak to your line manager. Please continue to refer to Tayside Contracts' website www.tayside-contracts.co.uk on a regular basis and refer to the FAQ document for further information on the content of this document by clicking [here](#).

If you have not already done so and wish to provide your email address to us in order to benefit from electronic access to communications such as these, please forward your email address to Communications@tayside-contracts.co.uk We will not forward your email address onto any third parties or use it for any other purpose other than to communicate with you.

Thank you so much for all you are doing to protect and support yourself, your families, and your communities during these difficult times.

Keith McNamara, Managing Director, 13 August 2021