

EMPLOYEE COMMUNICATION FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR - COVID-19, NO 53,

3 SEPTEMBER 2021

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

As you will be aware from recent Scottish Government briefings and media reports, there has been a significant increase in the prevalence of COVID-19 across Scotland in the last 2-week period. This briefing contains important information in light of this increase across the three Council areas we provide services in. COVID-19 continues to pose a risk to us all but by taking all the appropriate steps, I believe that we can mitigate that risk as much as possible and take a further step towards normality.

COVID-19 Vaccination

The Scottish Government, NHS Scotland and Public Health Scotland strongly recommend that all eligible individuals get the COVID-19 vaccine when it is offered as it provides the best protection against COVID-19.

I would therefore once again encourage every employee who can be vaccinated to do so and to ensure that you received both doses of the vaccine. Recent information provided to me suggests that the majority of ICU cases relate to those who have not been double vaccinated.



To aid uptake of the vaccination, I have been advised that consideration is being given by our colleagues in the three constituent Councils, to make the COVID-19 vaccination available at secondary school locations for all eligible individuals, including Tayside Contracts' school-based employees. I will provide further information on this to our school-based employees as soon as this becomes available.

Meantime, if you are able to attend a drop-in vaccination clinic to receive your first or second dose of vaccine, I would strongly encourage you to do so. Drop-in vaccination clinic locations in Tayside can be found [here](#).

Self-isolation and Getting a PCR Test

As I outlined in my last briefing, the rules around self-isolation changed from Monday 9 August which means that those who have received both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine from the NHS can end their self-isolation early provided that all of the follow criteria are met:

- The individual received their second dose of the vaccine more than 14 days ago
- The individual has received a negative PCR test result
- The individual does not have, or develops, symptoms



The NHS self-help guide can be found [here](#).

There has been no change to current guidance for those with symptoms or for those who test positive. Please continue to follow the NHS guidance which can be found [here](#) or the FAQ document on our website.

Wherever practicable, employees who have to self-isolate and get a PCR test should go to a test centre rather than do it by post as this takes considerably longer to return a result. Drive-through and walk-through testing site locations can be found [here](#).

Risk Assessments and Control Measures

It is important to once again 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 all the recent changes and new information 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](#).

Physical Distancing

Please remember that despite the change to the guidance issued by the Scottish Government, **for now Tayside Contracts will continue to maintain 2m physical distancing in 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](#).



Homeworking/Hybrid Working

I had hoped by now to be in a position to progress with a hybrid working model for those employees currently working from home who wished to return to the office on this basis. However, in light of the significant increase in cases across Tayside, I feel I must ask, once again, that those who can work from home continue to do so unless it is essential to attend a workplace in person.



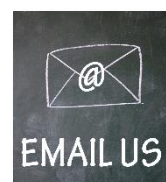
Whilst some of you may be disappointed that a return to the workplace has been delayed you will appreciate that we are acting on the advice of the First Minister that those who can work from home should do so. However, if you believe that continuing to work from home will be particularly

challenging for you, to the extent that it may impact negatively on your mental health, please discuss this with your manager.

Should you have any questions about any of the topics covered 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.

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, 3 September 2021

