

Employee Communication from The Managing Director - Covid-19, No 54, 17 September 2021

I hope that this latest briefing finds you and your family well. Once again I have some important updates for you to consider and be aware of. I very much appreciate your continued support in these difficult times and thank each of you for your hard work in providing essential public services to the communities of Tayside.

COVID-19 Vaccination Booster Programme

The First Minister announced on 14 September 2021 that the Scottish Government had received and accepted the final advice of Joint Committee Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) on a COVID vaccine booster programme.

Therefore, in light of this decision, individuals who received their vaccination during phase one of the national COVID-19 vaccination programme in Scotland will start to receive booster injections from 20 September.

Adults aged 70 years and over and adults aged 16 years and over who are on the highest risk list (previously known as the shielding list) will be contacted soon, either by letter or by their GP. People on the highest risk list who were severely immunosuppressed at the time of their last COVID-19 vaccination will be offered a third primary dose instead.

Other eligible groups, including all those aged 16 to 49 years with underlying health conditions, adult carers, unpaid and young carers, adult household contacts of immunosuppressed individuals and all adults over 50, will be able to book online from October.

The COVID-19 vaccine provides the best protection against COVID-19 and therefore all employees who are eligible are encouraged to take up the offer of vaccination or a booster vaccination. Tayside Contracts' COVID-19 Vaccination Policy is in place to support vaccine uptake and allows for reasonable paid time off for employees to obtain a COVID-19 vaccination or booster.

Risk Assessments and Control Measures

Our COVID-19 Risk Assessments have recently been revised and can be found [here](#). I would encourage you to read over the risk assessments relevant to your job role, ensure that you comply with the control measures detailed and to speak to your line manager if you have any queries.

Specifically, I would draw your attention to the guidance on physical distancing as despite the change to the rules around physical distancing issued by the Scottish Government in August 2021, **Tayside Contracts has decided that we will continue to maintain 2m physical distancing in all of the buildings we operate in and work activities we carry out.** This is to ensure the health and safety of our employees and reduce as far as possible the risk of contracting or transmitting the virus at work.

We will continue to review this and all other control measures within our risk assessments regularly in line with the relevant guidance and advice and will keep you updated on any changes.

Self-isolation

I appreciate that the rules around self-isolation can be confusing, but I must stress how important it is for employees to self-isolate when required to protect others, including colleagues and service users.

Please ensure that you self-isolate straight away and get a PCR test as soon as possible if you have any of these 3 symptoms of COVID-19, even if they are mild:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

You should also self-isolate straight away if:

- you have tested positive for COVID-19
- someone you live with has symptoms or has tested positive (you may be able to end your self-isolation early – check below if this applies to you)
- you have been told to self-isolate following contact with someone who tested positive

If you have received both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine you may be able to end your self-isolation early provided that all of the follow criteria is met:

- you have received a second dose of the vaccine more than 14 days ago
- you have received a negative PCR test result
- you do not have, or develop, symptoms

For further information the NHS guidance on self-isolation can be found [here](#) or alternatively a self-help guide by the NHS can be found [here](#).

Tayside Contracts' employees who are required to self-isolate will be paid their normal contractual pay for the duration of their self-isolation, if they cannot work from home.

Summary of Tayside Contracts' Current Position

- ❖ You encouraged to take up the offer of a COVID vaccine and booster as soon as it is offered.
- ❖ You are required to self-isolate when appropriate – see above.
- ❖ You must continue to **maintain 2m physical distancing** in in all buildings/work activities in accordance with our risk assessments.
- ❖ You must continue to wear face coverings in accordance with our risk assessments unless exempt

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.

Keith McNamara, Managing Director, 17 SEPTEMBER 2021



**FACE
COVERINGS**



**AVOID
CROWDS**



**CLEAN
HANDS**



**TWO
METRES**



**SELF-
ISOLATE**