

## EMPLOYEE COMMUNICATION FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR - COVID-19, NO 62, 19 APRIL 2022

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

**This briefing contains important information following the First Minister's recent announcement regarding the legal requirement to wear face coverings and to the guidance on regular lateral flow device tests from 18 April 2022.**

As you may know, the Scottish Government has lifted many of the legally imposed COVID-19 restrictions over the course of the last month and replaced these with practical measures based on personal responsibility, good practice and informed judgement. As a responsible employer with a duty of care to our employees, Tayside Contracts continues to adopt measures to mitigate risk and protect our employees from the transmission of COVID-19 in the workplace.

This briefing confirms Tayside Contracts' position on face coverings and lateral flow device tests for our employees.

### **Use of Face Coverings**

The legal requirement to wear face coverings in most indoor public places and on public transport was replaced by the Scottish Government on 18 April 2022, with a strong recommendation to continue to wear these where appropriate, including in indoor crowded spaces and on public transport. This strong recommendation is based on the fact that whilst cases of COVID-19 are reducing in Scotland, the case numbers remain high, with over 5,000 new cases per day still being recorded.

In light of this strong recommendation from the Scottish Government and our duty of care to our employees, there is no change to Tayside Contracts' position on the use of face coverings whilst employees are at work. Tayside Contracts continues to require employees, other than those who are exempt, to wear a face covering within the workplace, in shared vehicles or where 1m physical distancing cannot be maintained.

A reminder of the guidance on appropriate face coverings in vehicles can be found on our website [here](#).

All Tayside Contracts' COVID-19 risk assessments are published on our website [here](#).

### **Regular Lateral Flow Device (LFD) Testing**

The Scottish Government has confirmed that from 18 April 2022 it will no longer encourage people without symptoms to take a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test twice a week. This includes our school/ELC based employees, who were previously encouraged to take twice-weekly LFD tests and who were able to collect tests from their base school/ELC setting. This will no longer be the case, and free lateral flow devices for the purposes of twice weekly testing will no longer be available for these employees or indeed the general population.

Individuals can still obtain LFD tests in certain circumstances such as when vaccinated close contacts of someone with COVID-19 need to test daily for seven days with LFDs.

If you are eligible to order LFD tests, these can be ordered [here](#).

### **Self-Isolation Rules**

There is currently no change to the existing self-isolation rules. The initial advice when someone tests positive is still to self-isolate for ten days but you can end isolation after seven days as long as you, firstly, have no fever and, secondly, you record two negative LFD tests, one no earlier than day six after testing positive and another at least 24 hours after that.

In relation to close contacts of positive cases – and this includes household contacts - who are either under the age of 18 years, four months, or who are older than that and fully vaccinated\*, there is no requirement to self-isolate. Instead you are required to take a LFD test every day for seven days. If one of these tests is positive, self-isolation will then be required.

\*By fully vaccinated, it is meant that you have received the first, second and booster (or third) doses.

Anyone identified as a close contact who is over 18 years and four months and not fully vaccinated must self-isolate for ten days and take a PCR test.

### **Good Hand Hygiene, Ventilation and Surface Cleaning**

Finally, once again I would remind you that good personal hand hygiene, surface cleaning, appropriate ventilation and reducing social contacts remain key in reducing the risk of transmission of COVID-19. Employees are therefore encouraged to continue to ensure regular hand washing/sanitisation remains part of your routine when entering and exiting workplaces and during the course of your duties. You are also encouraged to maximise ventilation in workplaces by opening windows and doors where this is possible and appropriate.

### **Summary of Tayside Contracts' Position Effective from 18 April 2022:**

- All employees encouraged to ensure regular hand washing/sanitisation.
- All employees encouraged to maximise ventilation in the workplace.
- All employees to maintain 1 metre physical distancing in all of our buildings/work activities.
- All employees, other than those who are exempt, to wear a face covering within the workplace, in shared vehicles or where 1 metre physical distancing cannot be maintained.
- All employees are no longer encouraged to undertake an LFD test twice weekly.
- All employees are encouraged to continue to follow self-isolation and testing rules following a positive test result/close contact with a positive case

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](http://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](mailto: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.

**Keith McNamara, Managing Director, 19 April 2022**