

# 26.11.2021

Dear All,

**LFT/ PCR testing:** Please reiterate to all staff to continue to do the twice weekly LFT testing (**on Mondays and Thursdays at the beginning of your shifts**). We will do the PCR tests every other week for the time being. Please could all staff take extra care in completing the PCR testing paperwork/ labelling the sample as many sample continue to come back with inadequate details (pls add full name, DOB, NHS number, Covid nose/ throat, date etc).

**From 3<sup>rd</sup> of January 2022 Monday**, we will do the LFTs at the Hospital and will switch to weekly PCR tests.

**Precautions:** If staff do not feel well (**cold, flu like symptoms or other Covid symptoms – temperature, cough, sore throat, Loss of smell/ taste etc**), **ask them not to come into work and go for a drive through PCR tests (not to order home kits as this will take many days to arrive/ get the results back)**. Please continue to wear masks when in the hospital and follow infection control precautions. Use full PPE as advised by the senior nurses for isolating patients and new admissions. Anyone who hasn't completed their mask fit testing, please speak to Jo Cooling or Nicole to arrange one.

**Senior Nurses/ Team leads:** Please reiterate precautions for new staff. Keep a list of high risk staff – check if they have been fit tested, arrange carefully if they need to work with suspected/ positive or new admissions.

**Travel abroad:** Travelling abroad, post travel quarantining and testing arrangements remain the same (as per Sue's last email) for now. Although the government has relaxed the rules from October, we will be following some precautions to protect our patients and relatives. Please discuss any travel abroad with HR & your line manager before finalising plans.

**Zonal working:**

**From 1<sup>st</sup> December (until further notice, potentially till winter months)**

1. Please ask staff to work in zones as much as possible
2. Please avoid switching staff between wards
3. Where possible plan rota for January – March for staff to work in blocks i.e. work continuously and take days off continuously rather than working a day and having a day off and working the next day
4. Maintain record of which staff access patients rooms – so that we are able to track and trace within the hospital if there is an outbreak
5. We will advise against all non-essential entry into the ward

**Testing for suspected patients:**

For patients **readmitted** after a period at the acute or another hospital, please do accordingly.

1. If the patient has been to Hospital and the stay had been for a few days – 3 or lower, please do a LFT everyday (mainly if weekend) and a PCR on or close to day 4 or 5 (preferably 5)
2. If patient had has a longer stay than 3 days – please isolate in their room and continue isolation until PCR results are obtained. PCR on or close to day 4 or 5 of admission (preferably 5)
3. In both cases Consider

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- a. if patient was tested for Covid at the other Hospital – please check with the discharge teams.
  - b. Check if there were any Covid positive patients in that ward
  - c. If the procedure the patient went for increases risk of covid transmission including the ambulance transfer
4. For **new admissions** – always isolate them for minimum 7 days, no visitors and do a PCR closer to day 4/5.
  5. Current inpatients – If symptomatic (fever, cough, sore throat, cold type symptoms, loss of smell/ taste etc) – isolate and do a PCR

**PPE situation** and stocks remains under constant review. The critical PPE i.e. FFP3 masks are in good stock. Full gowns are in stock. Please use all PPE judiciously.

- a. Use surgical masks, aprons and gloves when treating all patients
- b. When treating any patients with a risk of splashing (Both trache and non-trache patients) please use visors. Preferably, use the plastic robust visors that can be spray cleaned after each use.
- c. For Suspected or positive Covid patients please follow the guidelines below.

#### **PPE use for Positive patients**

- d. Continue waste management protocol as per attached document
- e. Continue enhanced cleaning of patient rooms
- f. Continue PPE use as discussed
  - i. Full hand aprons
  - ii. FFP3 masks
  - iii. Visors
  - iv. Gloves

**If there is a positive patient in a ward, please could all staff in the ward use FFP3 masks that you were fit-tested in**

**PPE use for Suspected patients:** If there is a patient developing clear, severe symptoms (temperature over 37.8 degrees or Persistent dry cough and/ or loss of taste or smell – PLEASE USE PPE SIMILAR TO A POSITIVE PATIENT DESCRIBED ABOVE – if unsure, please isolate, use full PPE and do a PCR.