

Covid PCR Testing

Please remember to do your weekly covid test.

Use this form when you've done your test:

<https://www.myphoenixcare.com/report-covid-testing.html>

Each time you do a test please register your test online here:

<https://organisations.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/register-organisation-tests>

Click the consents, then use our Unique Organisation Identifier which is 45196763 and the reference off your own test kit.

Click 'Add each person's details one by one' then provide your details.

Testing out of isolation

If you are pinged by the NHS App or contacted by Test and Trace as a close contact and requested to isolate (but not if you live with someone who has tested positive) you can continue working provided:

- You are double vaccinated
- You have a clear PCR Test
- You have clear daily Lateral Flow Tests for the period you would otherwise be required to isolate
- You are not working with someone who is extremely clinically vulnerable

So, if you are pinged by the App or contacted by Test and Trace please notify the office on 01761 414 558 immediately, do a PCR Test and ensure you've got LFTs for the period of your isolation.

*(Please note, from 16th August, govt guidance for gen. pop is that (if vaccinated) will not need to isolate following contact with someone who's positive. However **our** policy will remain that if you've been pinged or contacted you need to PCR and then Lateral Flow for 10 days)*

Covid Positive PAs

Even when double vaccinated, it is still possible to catch an infection (there is still a 50% chance of testing positive). However vaccination reduces the seriousness of the infection so hopefully you'll experience no or mild symptoms.

When a PA's PCR test returns positive, the rules about immediate isolation for 10 days **do** apply to them, their bubble and direct contacts. It is **not possible** to test out of isolation if you or someone you live with returns a positive test. (However shifts cancelled during the isolation period will be paid in full using funds provided for this purpose so please keep track of how many shifts are cancelled)

Although proper PPE use reduces the chance of passing on an infection to a client, it is still the case that any person (including clients) a Cov+ PA has been in contact with in the **two days prior** to a positive test isolates for 10 days from the point of contact. You can notify Test and Trace of your contacts by calling them on 119:

(please note, contacts will **not** include staff you have been doubling up with where you have **both** wearing full PPE which is a mitigating factor)

PAs who have worked with the individual who tested positive **do not** need to isolate as they have taken precautions (PPE). However they should do a PCR asap.

PAs who work on the same teams as the individual who has tested positive **do not** need to isolate as they are not **direct contacts** of the person who has tested positive

During their isolation the client is still to be supported by the rest of the PAs in their team. They should be treated with enhanced caution 'as if' they had just come home from the hospital: (i.e. carers should use full PPE and ideally a visor as well) for the 10 days of isolation.

Carers who are still unvaccinated may want to consider **not** seeing the client during this period because of the elevated risk of infection.

There is no requirement for the client to take a PCR test unless they become symptomatic, but the client **might like** to take a PCR anyway, and it may put their minds and the minds of PAs at ease.

However a client returning a negative PCR will not reduce the duration of their isolation, (because it can take up to 10 days for an infection to develop)

Informing Clients

The Team Leader or Key Worker should inform the clients that they have been a contact in the two days prior to testing positive that they need to isolate for 10 days. If they are uncomfortable doing so, then they can request someone from the office to do this.

It is up to the person returning the positive test to decide whether they are happy for the rest of their teams to know that they have tested positive and this may help explain why there are additional shifts to cover. The task of covering shifts should be led by the Team Leader (where one exists) supported by the office team as and when required.

Please, if any of this is unclear please call 07871 305192

Thanks!