**Daily Testing for Contacts of Covid (DTCC)**

**Continued Testing for Contacts of Positive Cases in England and Wales**

All prison staff who have become aware that they have been in contact with a positive case, have been identified as a contact of a positive case or suspect they have been in contact with a positive case will be encouraged to continue to test using LFD testing for 7 days following an identified contact with a positive case.

Until now, prison staff in England who are not fully vaccinated or who do not wish to disclose their vaccination status, had Daily Contact Testing (DCT) available to allow them to return to work through the period of isolation providing they undertook an LFD at a dedicated ATS at the prison prior to starting work for a period of 7 days. Staff in Wales who are not fully vaccinated have been required to isolate and fully vaccinated staff in Wales have undertaken the Risk Mitigation Testing (RMT)

From 1st April, in England and from 28th March in Wales all staff working in prisons who are identified as a contact of a positive case are encouraged to undertake ‘Daily Testing for Contacts of Covid (DTCC)’ for 7 days as described below. If staff do not wish to participate in this testing regime, they can continue to attend the workplace, but testing should be strongly encouraged

**The principles of Daily Testing for Contacts of Covid (DTCC) for contacts of a positive case**

* This testing programme replaces the previous DTCC, DCT and RMT programmes
* DTCC now includes unvaccinated staff and staff in Wales
* The model applies to all staff working in prisons who have been identified as a contact of a positive case, regardless of vaccination status
* The staff member identified as a contact should not have any COVID-19 symptoms
* All staff who are identified as a contact of a positive case will be encouraged to engage in DTCC using LFD testing for 7 days following an identified contact
* PCR tests are not a requirement of DTCC
* These rules apply regardless of whether or not the contact is within the same household as the positive case
* The member of staff should commence **daily self-collect** LFD tests at home for 7 days from the point they are identified as a contact, using LFD before attending work each day (and on days they are not at work)
* LFD tests are supplied by the workplace through the usual routes
* The LFD test result should be negative before attending work
* If any result is positive, the member of staff should not attend the workplace
* Staff should report the results of each test to the HRL each day they are scheduled to work
* They should continue to attend work if the results are negative
* If a staff member has had a COVID-19 infection in the past 90 days they can undertake daily LFD tests

**All staff that have been identified as a contact of a positive case who attend the workplace must adhere to these requirements:**

* Social distancing should be optimised and, wherever possible, maintained at all times in the workplace.
* Face masks must be worn at all times in the workplace.
* The staff member will not work with those who have been considered clinically extremely vulnerable (staff, patients or residents), as determined by the organisation, or people whose immune system means they are at higher risk from Covid-19

**Additional information k**

* Testing Manuals will be updated to reflect this change next week
* Dedicated DCT ATS stations (set up externally in prisons to manage only DCT testing) can be closed if they are not being used to support any other testing.
* Prisons should be advised that the additional DCT assurance will no longer be required to be submitted from 01.04.2022- However, regular reporting of those undertaking DTCC will be reported through the weekly Smart Survey and will be reflected on the Surveillance Hub to inform decision making.