**Addendum to Gold Briefing – Update to Establishments – COVID Testing, Isolation and National Framework from 1st April 2022**

As per the Gold Brief issued on 31 March, the community self-isolation requirements have now expired. In prison custody it is appropriate that we continue to protect the safety of others in this high-risk environment and ensure that those that should isolate, in accordance with public health advice, continue to do so. This involves both those “reverse cohorted” as well as those who require “protective isolation”.

Establishments should utilise powers under Rule 45 via the HMPPS Compartmentalisation Strategy (a part of the National Framework) to continue to isolate prisoners who are either Reverse Cohorting (RC) or isolating under Protective Isolation (PI). Rule 45 is only relevant to prisoners who will either reverse cohort or isolate on their own with no access to others during their RC or PI period. Other prisoners who are either RC or in PI, but will be able to associate with others as part of a regime group during this period are not segregated from others and do not need to be signed up for Rule 45.

Some working examples for clarification are provided below:

**Reverse Cohort or Induction Unit - Reception and Transfer Prisoners**

* **RULE 45 Applies**

1. A single prisoner arrives and is located in a single cell. No other prisoners arrive in the same reverse cohorting (RC) group period. During their RC period, this prisoner will not be able to have association with any other prisoner and will effectively be segregated from others.
2. A single prisoner arrives and is located in a single cell. Due to their specific requirements it is not possible for them to be located in the reverse cohorting unit, and they are located elsewhere. During their RC period, this prisoner will not be able to have association with any other prisoner and will effectively be segregated from others.
3. On Day 0/1 or Day 5/6 1 a prisoner in a single cell tests positive for Covid-19, or at any point during their RC period becomes symptomatic. No other prisoners in the unit are in protective isolation (PI). During their PI, this prisoner will not be able to have access to showers or exercise with any other prisoner and will effectively be segregated from others.

* **REGIME GROUP – Rule 45 does not apply**

1. More than 1 prisoner arrives in reception and are located in a mixture of single and shared accommodation cells or dormitories on the reverse cohorting unit. During their RC period, these prisoners will be able to have association with any other prisoner in the same RC regime group, and therefore will not be segregated from others.
2. On Day 0/1 or Day 5/6 a prisoner in a single cell tests positive for Covid-19, or at any point in their RC period becomes symptomatic. They are placed in Protective Isolation (PI). Other prisoners in the unit are also in PI. During their PI, this prisoner will be able to have access to showers or exercise with any other prisoner also in PI and therefore will not be segregated from others.
3. On Day 0/1 or Day 5/6 a prisoner in a shared cell or dormitory tests positive for Covid-19 or at any point in their RC period becomes symptomatic. They are placed in Protective Isolation (PI), along with their cellmate(s). No other prisoners in the unit are in PI other than their cellmate(s). During their PI, this prisoner will still be able to associate, have access to showers or exercise with their cell mate(s) and therefore will not be segregated from others. This will apply even if their cellmate(s) is/are taking part in prisoner risk mitigation testing (PRMT).
4. On Day 0/1 or Day 5/6 a prisoner in a shared cell or dormitory tests positive for Covid-19 or at any point in their RC period becomes symptomatic along with their cellmate(s). They are placed in Protective Isolation (PI). Other prisoners in the unit are also in PI. During their PI, this prisoner will be able to have access to showers or exercise with any other prisoner also in PI, as well as associate with their cellmate(s) and will not be segregated from others.

**Main Location Protective Isolation**

* **RULE 45 applies**

1. A prisoner in a single cell becomes symptomatic or tests positive for Covid-19. They are placed in Protective Isolation (PI). No other prisoners in the unit are in PI. During their protective isolation period, this prisoner will not be able to have access to showers or exercise with any other prisoner and will effectively be segregated from others.

* **REGIME GROUP– Rule 45 does not apply**

1. A single prisoner in a single cell becomes symptomatic or tests positive for Covid-19. They are placed in Protective Isolation (PI). Other prisoners in the unit are also in PI. During their PI, this prisoner will be able to have access to showers or exercise with any other prisoner also in their PI period and therefore will not be segregated from others.
2. A prisoner in a shared cell or dormitory tests becomes symptomatic or positive for Covid-19. They are placed in Protective Isolation (PI), along with their cellmate(s). No other prisoners in the unit are in PI other than their cellmate(s). During their PI, this prisoner will still be able to associate, have access to showers or exercise with their cell mate(s) and therefore will not be segregated from others. This will apply even if their cellmate(s) is/are taking part in prisoner risk mitigation testing (PRMT).
3. A prisoner in a shared cell or dormitory becomes symptomatic or tests positive for Covid-19. They are placed in Protective Isolation (PI). Other prisoners in the unit are also in PI. During their PI, this prisoner will be able to have access to showers or exercise with any other prisoner also in PI, as well as associate with their cellmate(s) and will not be segregated from others.

**Segregation or specialised unit Isolation**

* **RULE 45 applies**

1. A single prisoner located in the segregation unit becomes symptomatic or tests positive for Covid-19. They are placed in Protective Isolation. PI under Rule 45 must be added to their existing Rule 45 paperwork.

**Recording of Safeguards and Compartmentalisation Regime**

It is important that wing managers and Governors are aware of the locations of those who are isolating (and the number of those who have been isolated for more than 72 hours) and the regime being delivered to them.

All isolating prisoners should have a wellbeing check at the 72 point of isolation (for prisoners under both Protective Isolation and Reverse Cohorting). This should be undertaken either the Wing Manger/Key Worker or other suitable member of staff to determine that it is safe to continue isolating the individual. The details of the wellbeing check must be recorded as NOMIS/SystemOne Case notes and the **Governor must then authorise their continued isolation for more than 72 hours**. This authorisation must be given to the prisoner in writing – template provided below

