

Test & Protect Scheme

Information for care home staff

The Test & Protect scheme is now live and is central to Scotland being able to ease lockdown measures, as we work together to reduce the risk and incidence of Covid-19.

If a care home employee tests positive (known by the Test & Protect service as a 'case'), a contact tracer will contact him or her by telephone and carry out an interview.

If you are identified as a case, you should already be self-isolating at home and the contact tracer will contact you by telephone. The contact tracer will ask questions to identify those whom you have had contact with in the 48 hours prior to symptom onset, or positive test if you are asymptomatic, for 10 days from the date of symptom onset, or positive test if you are asymptomatic. The contact tracer will then determine if a named contact is a close contact.

A close contact is defined as:

- a member of the same household as the staff member who has tested positive.

For non-household settings, this is:

- Direct contact:
 - face to face contact with a case within 1 metre for any length of time, including:
 - being coughed on
 - having a face-to-face conversation
 - having skin-to-skin physical contact
 - any contact within 1 metre for one minute or longer without face-to-face contact
 - a person who has travelled in a small vehicle with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19); or in a large vehicle near someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19)
- Proximity contact: A person who has been between 1 and 2 metres of someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) for more than 15 minutes, cumulatively, during period defined above.

If the contact tracer deems it likely that you have either been exposed to the virus, or may have exposed others in such a setting, you will be asked for consent to share your details, in strict confidence, with your line manager so that a prompt risk assessment can be undertaken of possible Covid-19 transmission in the workplace. You should contact your line manager to discuss any details required for the assessment and other work-related issues.

If you are identified as a close contact at the time of interview with the contact tracer and do not have symptoms (asymptomatic), you will be asked to self-isolate immediately at home for 14 days from the date of your last contact with the case and to call your line manager to advise them. As a contact, your household members will not need to self-isolate as long as you remain without symptoms. If you develop symptoms, you should self-refer online for testing via the SALUS occupational health service <https://covid19staffscreening.salus.co.uk/>. Your household would then isolate until the result of the test is known. If you come back positive from the test, your household contacts would continue their 14-day isolation.

If you are identified as a close contact at the time of interview with the contact tracer and do have symptoms, you will be asked to self-isolate at home immediately and arrange a test. You should arrange for other household members to also self-isolate. If the test comes back positive, the contact tracing service will be automatically informed. You will then be identified

as a case and interviewed to identify contacts. If the test comes back negative, you should follow the same advice as above for asymptomatic contacts.

There are four key things to do to reduce the risk of being classed as a close contact:

- wash hands regularly and often;
- wear appropriate PPE as per guidance for your area of work;
- maintain physical distancing of two metres between yourself and colleagues whenever possible, especially when not wearing PPE;
- ensure enhanced cleaning and hygiene measures, such as cleaning of frequently touched surfaces and equipment, are adhered to.

For further information, please visit:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-test-and-protect/>

Information for care home managers

The Test & Protect scheme is now live and is central to Scotland being able to ease lockdown measures, as we work together to reduce the risk and incidence of Covid-19.

If a care home employee tests positive (known by the Test & Protect service as a 'case'), a contact tracer will contact him or her by telephone and carry out an interview. The contact tracer will identify close contacts of the person who has tested positive, which will include those within their workplace, who fit the definition of a close contact:

A close contact is defined as:

- a member of the same household as the staff member who has tested positive.

For non-household settings, this is:

- Direct contact:
 - face to face contact with a case within 1 metre for any length of time, including:
 - being coughed on
 - having a face-to-face conversation
 - having skin-to-skin physical contact
 - any contact within 1 metre for one minute or longer without face-to-face contact
 - a person who has travelled in a small vehicle with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19); or in a large vehicle near someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19)
- Proximity contact: A person who has been between 1 and 2 metres of someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) for more than 15 minutes, cumulatively, during period defined above.

If this is the staff member's first positive test, they will be asked to isolate for 7 days from the onset of their symptoms, or the date of their positive test if they are asymptomatic. The Test & Protect team will contact the care home manager, in strict confidence, informing them of the positive result – this is in order that their close contacts at work can be identified. Their close contacts (those who fit the above criteria, including work colleagues) will be asked to isolate for 14 days from their last contact with the case.

If this is not their first positive test, a case review will be conducted by the Test & Protect team to determine the next steps and they may link with the care home manager as part of this process.

There are four key steps that staff can take to minimise the risk of being identified as close contacts:

- wash hands regularly and often;
- wear appropriate PPE as per guidance for your area of work;
- maintain physical distancing of two metres between staff whenever possible, especially when not wearing PPE (e.g. break rooms);
- ensure enhanced cleaning and hygiene measures, such as cleaning of frequently touched surfaces and equipment, are adhered to.