**Management of Covid 19 outbreak at Freshfaced Edinburgh**

**Measures to prevent spread of COVID-19 and protect people at increased risk of severe illness**

There is currently multiple vaccines to prevent COVID-19.

The following measures are recommended to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and to protect people at increased risk of severe illness:

**Stay at home guidance** for households with possible COVID-19 should be followed by people with symptoms or a COVID-19 diagnosis by positive PCR test (whether or not they have symptoms) and their household contacts to reduce the community spread of COVID-19. This means that anyone who has symptoms or a COVID-19 diagnosis (whether or not they have symptoms) and anyone else living in the same household should follow the guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus infection on NHS Inform.

**Test and Protect** is a public health measure designed to break chains of transmission of COVID-19 in the community. This approach operates by identifying cases of COVID-19, tracing the people who may have become infected by spending time in close contact with them, and then supporting those close contacts to self-isolate, so that if they have the disease they are less likely transmit to it to others. Further details can be found on the Scottish Government website and NHS Inform. Guidance on the general approach to contact tracing and on contact tracing in complex settings, including health and social care staff, patients and residents, is available on the HPS website.

**Face coverings:** The Scottish Government announced that people aged 5 years and over must wear a face covering in a wide range of indoor public places including shops, cinemas, galleries, museums and banks; on public transport and in public transport premises. Members of the public visiting an adult hospital (including attending an appointment) or a care home for the elderly are also asked to wear a face covering. Patients and members of the public entering primary and community healthcare premises should be encouraged to use face coverings, as it is not always possible to maintain a 2 metre (2m) distance from other people. For further information, including exemptions please refer Scottish Government website.

**Physical distancing** measures should be followed by everyone in line with government advice to stay safe (physical distancing). Guidelines vary by age group-for up to date information see Scottish Government website. The aim of physical distancing measures is to reduce the transmission of COVID-19. Up to date information can be found on the NHS Inform website.

**Physical distancing by staff** of 2m should be followed in all areas of the workplace, including non-clinical areas. Where 2m physical distancing cannot be maintained, for example in direct patient contacts, the use of PPE in accordance with guidance will reduce the risk of exposure. Other considerations might include measures such as staggering staff breaks, and toilet use to limit the density of staff in specific areas are required. The use of Glass (or similar) screens should also be considered to reduce risk in non-clinical encounters.

**Shielding** is a measure to protect people, including children, who are at extremely high risk of severe illness from COVID-19 because of certain underlying health conditions. Scottish Government advise: “People who have been advised to shield because of COVID-19, will no longer have to do so from 1 August and will be asked to follow general safety guidance, as well as follow stringent physical distancing and hygiene measures”. There are some exceptions to this including those living in a residential care or nursing home. Further information including exceptions can be found on the Scottish Government website. Individuals who are in the shielding group should continue to follow Scottish Government guidance.

**Testing**

Anyone in Scotland who is showing symptoms of COVID-19 can be tested through UK Government Testing sites. Further guidance on eligibility and access to testing is available on NHS Inform and on the Scottish Government website. N.B. Testing appointments will be prioritised for key workers and their household members. Further advice on NHS Inform as well as advice to support them returning to work where it is safe to do so. Arrangements vary by NHS Board.

Staff should get tested if they experience any of the following symptoms:

Recent onset:

· New continuous cough or

· Fever or

· Loss of/ change in sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

The staff member should not attend work whilst waiting for the result of that test and should immediately inform Graham Gardner on 07747533892 if they have symptoms and require testing.

**Triage of Patients**

All patients are required to complete a covid declaration form prior to attending their appointment. Included in the form are instructions on what to do if the patient has any of the symptoms associated with covid 19.

If a patient attends Freshfaced Edinburgh with symptoms that could indicate infection with Covid 19 or is awaiting results from a test (ie should be self-isolating) then the patient will be refused treatment and asked to return home immediately and follow the latest NHS guidance regarding testing and self-isolating. Following a scenario such as this, any patients in the waiting area will be asked to wait outside or reschedule their treatment whilst the clinic undergoes a 'deep clean' so that treatments may continue. The treating clinician and reception staff will have been wearing the correct PPE to reduce the risk of transmission so will not need to self-isolate unless instructed to by the NHS.

**'Deep clean' protocol**

Once a suspected case has left premises, the room where the patient was placed/isolated should not be used until adequately decontaminated. The room door should remain shut until it has been cleaned with a combined detergent disinfectant solution at a dilution of 1000 parts per million (ppm) available chlorine (av.cl.) or a neutral purpose detergent followed by disinfection (1000 ppm av.cl.). Once this process has been completed, the room can be put back into use immediately.

The person responsible for undertaking the cleaning with a combined detergent disinfectant solution at a dilution of 1000 parts per million (ppm) available chlorine (av.cl.) or a neutral purpose detergent followed by disinfection (1000 ppm av.cl.), should be familiar with these processes and procedures:

· Collect any cleaning equipment and waste bags required before entering the room.

· Any cloths and mop heads used must be disposed of as single use items.

· Before entering the room, perform hand hygiene then put on a disposable plastic apron and gloves.

**On entering the room**

· Keep the door closed with windows open to improve airflow and ventilation whilst using detergent and disinfection products.

· Bag any disposable items that have been used for the care of the patient as clinical waste.

· Provided curtains have been tied back during the examination and no contamination is evident, these can be left in situ. Otherwise, remove any fabric curtains or screens and bag as infectious linen.

· Close any sharps containers, wipe the outer surfaces with either a combined detergent disinfectant solution at a dilution of 1000 parts per million (ppm) available chlorine (av.cl.) or a neutral purpose detergent followed by disinfection (1000 ppm av.cl.).

For the cleaning protocol please follow our standard cleaning instructions.

**On leaving the room**

· Discard detergent/disinfectant solutions safely at disposal point.

· Dispose of all waste as clinical waste.

· Clean, dry and store re-usable parts of cleaning equipment, such as mop handles.

· Remove and discard PPE as clinical waste as per local policy.

· Perform hand hygiene.

**Cleaning of communal areas**

If a possible case spent time in a communal area used for non-respiratory patients, for example, a waiting area or toilet facilities, then these areas should be cleaned with detergent and disinfectant (as above) unless there has been a blood/body fluid spill which should be dealt with immediately. Once cleaning and disinfection have been completed, these areas can be put back into use immediately.

**Reporting to Local Health Protection Team & HIS – approach to outbreak management**

Any confirmed case of Covid-19 should be reported to the local health protection team and Healthcare improvement scotland should also be notified via the online portal. If there is a need for further investigation or management then we will adhere to any guidance given.

**Healthcare Staff**

Staff (such as health and care workers) Staff with underlying health conditions that put them at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19, including those who are immunosuppressed, should seek advice from their line manager or local Occupational Health service. Further guidance for staff with underlying medical conditions is available here.

**Staff exposure to COVID-19**

All staff should be vigilant for COVID-19 symptoms. Staff who have not been wearing appropriate PPE during exposures to COVID-19 case, who meet the contact definitions described in contact tracing guidance, should be excluded from work and self-isolate in line with advice for general members of the public.



**Symptomatic members of staff**

Staff should follow national advice on "Guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection" if they or a member of their household develops symptoms consistent with COVID-19.

Staff who develop symptoms and have a negative PCR test for SARS-CoV-2 should be managed in accordance with the flowchart for return to work following a SARS-CoV-2 test at management of exposed staff and patients in health and social care setting. Staff who have recovered from COVID-19 should follow the guidance on management of exposed staff and patients in health and social care setting for symptomatic or asymptomatic worker as appropriate.

Staff who have had confirmed COVID-19 and have since recovered must continue to follow the IPC measures including appropriate PPE. Follow-up testing of staff for clearance is not generally recommended, but staff may require evidence of viral clearance prior to working with extremely vulnerable people.