PPE communications 13.5.2022

Changes to personal protective equipment in the Trust come into place from Monday 16th May 2022. Please note, masks must continue to be worn at all times in both community and inpatient environments, and lateral flow device testing should continue to be performed twice weekly before working face to face with colleagues or service users.   For a reminder on the PPE needed when working with service users please download and print this poster to display in your workplace (poster attached).

**Changes to the use of eye protection in all service user facing settings (including community bases and visits in the homes)**

The IPC team has reviewed the need for routine wearing of eye protection for staff who work with service users, and for both inpatient and community settings eye protection needs to be worn only in the following circumstances:

* when providing care for a person who has tested positive for covid-19 (or other respiratory infection as advised by the IPC team), until their period of isolation is complete
* when working in an outbreak area
* when caring for a service user without infection, where a risk assessment identifies risk of blood/bodily fluid splash or exposure
* when [sharing a car](https://www.leedsandyorkpft.nhs.uk/advice-support/covid-information-staff/infection-control-ppe/#:~:text=It%E2%80%99s%20vital%20you,matter%20of%20urgency.) with other staff or service users (unless you are the driver)

Remember, when caring for a service user who is isolating (inpatient and community setting):

* Try to maintain 2 m distancing when not delivering direct care
* Ventilate the room by opening windows as much as possible
* Keep the area clear and uncluttered to cleaning easier
* Thoroughly clean any shared equipment e.g., ECG machine, between patient use and additionally after using in an area where a service user is isolating
* Carefully doff all PPE on exiting an isolation room following the [donning and doffing guidance](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1044504/COVID-19_Non_AGP_Donning_and_doffing_PPE_droplet_precautions.pdf). Clean hands and apply PPE appropriate to the setting

**Changes to mask wearing in some areas of the Trust from Monday 16th May 2022**

In line with the *living with covid* guidance national updates, the Trust is making changes to how masks are used in areas of the Trust where there is no face-to-face contact with service users.

If you are working on a Trust site but in an office, or area that patients cannot access, the new guidance below applies to you.

* Undertake twice weekly later flow testing and ensure you have a negative result before coming onto site
* Do not come to work on a Trust site if you feel unwell
* You must wear a mask on entering, leaving, and moving about the workplace, but once you are seated this can be removed
* You should be familiar with local procedures for the building such as ventilation, the number of staff allowed and the clean desk policy etc.
* You should practice regular [hand hygiene](https://youtu.be/LJyxxqNarsc) with soap and water or hand sanitiser. Hand sanitiser will remain available on site for you to use

Please note; If you wish to continue to use full PPE whilst at work, the Trust fully supports this and will ensure adequate stock is available. You can raise any concerns you may have about this change in guidance with your line manager and the IPC team at [infectioncontrol.lypft@nhs.net](mailto:infectioncontrol.lypft@nhs.net)

The impact of these changes will be monitored by the IPC team and may be reviewed as necessary, e.g., in the event of escalation of the pandemic, increase in infection on Trust sites, or where there is evidence that the steps above are not being consistently followed. Please consider the wellbeing of your colleagues at all times.

