

NHSBT Basildon SHU & Phoenix House Centres - Pandemic Workplace Controls

Following on from the UK Governments announcement in February 2022 the UK is now 'Living with COVID-19' and from this Pandemic controls which were implemented into UK society and well as healthcare settings are now decreasing.

There is a risk of transmission of COVID-19 with any risk control relaxation. The risk reduction measures here are in accordance with IPC guidance for the healthcare sector, along with a reduced level of COVID prevalence in society. For vaccinated colleagues the severity of symptoms and the risk of infection transmission is reduced, therefore, to reduce the control measures as below is considered acceptable.

The below controls are now in effect within the Basildon centres and replace all other pre-dated controls where applicable;

- COVID-19 vaccination is strongly recommended and encouraged
- Triage (Edgware DC Blood donation session) - The taking of donor's temperature upon entering has now ceased. Pre-attendance information, posters at the door will continue
- Increased hand hygiene (colleagues, visitors, and donors) will continue to be implemented in line with current guidance
- Cleaning stations are to still be made available in workplaces / departments
- Face coverings for donors will still be required, unless medically exempt. This will be until infection control guidance is updated to indicate these are no longer required
- Fluid repellent face masks (Type IIR) for colleagues working in close contact with donors/patients will still be required as per infection control guidance, this will be updated when there are any changes
- Areas that currently wear face masks when working closer than 2m can now be changed to only those working closer than 1m should wear face masks. IPC will continue to monitor, and the guidance will be reviewed when there are any changes
- Face coverings in communal areas (canteens, kitchens, corridors, and stairs) in centres are now a personal choice and where colleagues wish to continue to wear them, they can
- Face to face training can continue with 1m social distancing and mandatory face masks when in close contact
- Social distancing is to reduce to 1m in Edgware DC waiting areas, in labs, and conference rooms. This is subject to those areas having good ventilation. This may reduce further if IPC guidance supports this after consultation with staff side
- Where Perspex screens are in situ within the centre and, if not impeding work or causing obstructions, can remain in place
- Touch point cleaning will be changing shortly to reflect the requirements outlined in the new National Standards of Healthcare Cleanliness 2021

- Areas who have implemented staggered breaks and one-way systems, these are no longer mandatory; however, where departments wish to continue to implement, then they are free to do so
- Asymptomatic testing (Lateral Flow Tests) for patient and donor facing staff will continue. Staff in this category are asked to continue with twice weekly LFT testing. Healthcare workers can order one pack of 7 Lateral Flow Tests every 3 days using the [online offering via gov.uk](#)
- Any colleague with one of the three main COVID-19 symptoms (*) should get themselves tested as a healthcare worker (LFT). Any staff with symptoms requiring a test will need to use the [self-referral link](#).
- Any colleague with any of the below symptoms of COVID-19, flu or common respiratory infections/respiratory illness, should consider if it is necessary to come into work or not.
 - continuous cough*
 - high temperature, fever or chills*
 - loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell*
 - shortness of breath
 - unexplained tiredness, lack of energy
 - muscle aches or pains that are not due to exercise
 - not wanting to eat or not feeling hungry
 - headache that is unusual or longer lasting than usual
 - sore throat, stuffy or runny nose
 - diarrhoea, feeling sick or being sick
- Basildon centres desk capacity will increase to 100% availability by the end of April. This will be monitored.
 - CO2 monitoring will continue to occur periodically in the centre to monitor ventilation levels
- Hybrid working (blended working) where appropriate is set to continue with manager agreement. Where hybrid workers, without an allocated desk, are to attend the centre they are to use the desk booking system.
- Where individual COVID-19 risk assessments are in place, managers will be asked to review the controls within these assessments and where required get the local HS&W Advisor to amend or, archive the risk assessment as the controls noted are now protecting all colleagues within NHSBT.
- Where departments have unvaccinated colleagues, risk assessments are required for the protection of immunocompromised patients and colleagues who are exempt from vaccination to continue with mask wearing and social distancing
- Immunocompromised colleagues that are at a higher risk of illness if they contract respiratory infections, should follow the below advice:
 - Is it possible for the individual to work from home? This is to be discussed with your line manager with regards to keeping you safe and to reduce individual risk further. This maybe recorded as a reasonable adjustment
 - Support from Health, Safety & Wellbeing is available

- ensure that individuals continue to follow specific advice from their specialist
- Individuals should avoid meeting someone with a confirmed COVID-19 positive result, or people with symptoms of respiratory infections who have a temperature and feel unwell
- keep socially distant if it feels right for the individual
- consider continuing to wear a face covering in crowded public places
- where immunocompromised individuals have symptoms and test positive for COVID-19 on LFT they are to log their result and the NHS will contact regards treatment

Next review scheduled; 27.09.2022