



Wearing Surgical Masks in the Ambulance Workplace



We are experiencing a national increase in positive COVID-19 cases and adherence to our Working Safely during COVID-19 guidance (June 2020) and trust Test and Trace procedures is paramount.

Compliance is expected from all staff, visitors and contractors when undertaking duties in non-clinical areas and moving around Trust buildings or working in vehicles.

Social distancing must be complied with wherever possible in all environments.



PLEASE NOTE

If you have downloaded the NHS COVID-19 Test and Trace app **REMEMBER** to switch off Contact Tracing when you arrive at your workplace and switch it on again when you leave at the end of your shift / working day.

If you receive an alert to isolate, please follow the trust test and trace policy and procedure.



Where the social distancing guidelines cannot be followed in full, all mitigating actions possible must be taken to reduce the risk of transmission between staff.

Further mitigating actions will include:

- Increasing the frequency of hand washing and surface cleaning
- Keeping the activity time involving close contact as short as possible
- Using screens or barriers and one-way systems to separate people from each other
- Using back-to-back or side-to-side working (rather than face-to-face) whenever possible
- Where reasonably practicable consider reducing the number of people each person has contact with by using 'fixed teams or partnering' (so each person works with only a few others)
- **Where all mitigation measures have been explored and staff are still unable to comply with social distancing requirements, then a surgical facemask must be worn**
- **If both crew members are in the cab of an ambulance, both must wear a surgical mask. The driver must wear a mask unless they assess that it impacts upon driving safety (i.e. reduced visibility due to fogging of prescription glasses)**



Contact with someone confirmed as COVID-19 positive

If a member of staff has come into close contact with someone who has suspected or confirmed COVID-19 and they were either not wearing appropriate PPE, or there was a breach in the PPE, then they must inform their line manager and cooperate in the undertaking of a risk assessment. If the risk assessment concludes there has been a significant breach or close contact without PPE, the member of staff must remain off work for 14 days.

If the risk assessment confirms that any of the mitigation listed below has been in place and appropriately adhered to, they may not need to be listed as a contact nor need to isolate.

- trained in IPC and the use of level 2 or level 3 PPE
- plastic screens in place to enable separation between individuals reducing the risk of direct droplet contamination
- **use of surgical masks where the 2m social distancing rule cannot be maintained**
- **use of surgical masks in cabs of vehicles (when shared)**

REMEMBER: As a member of the NHS you are a role model in your community. Please behave responsibly in applying Infection, Prevention & Control measures **AT ALL TIMES** to protect yourself - in doing so you protect your patients, your colleagues, your loved ones and all those you meet.