

FOI_1627_2023-24 – FOI Request concerning COVID 19 Testing Policy for Staff

1. Please could you give me the current policy on staff testing for COVID.

Specifically, if a partner of a health professional has tested positive for COVID should the health professional be undertaking a test?

Solent Trust policy reflects the guidance provided by UKHSA and department of health and is reviewed and updated as guidance is published.

The current Solent Guidance is as follows:

- There is no requirement for staff with respiratory symptoms to test for Covid 19 unless they are eligible for Covid 19 treatments (as per advice via their GP) guidance based on DOH and UKHSA guidance (last update 28 March 24).
- There has been no mandated requirement for staff who have respiratory symptoms to test for Covid 19 since 17 April 23 when Solent guidance changed based on DOH and UKHSA guidance 31 March 23. The exception to this is as follows -Symptomatic testing of staff is only advised within Solent if their role primarily involves providing care for severely immunosuppressed (eg solid organ, stem cell, or bone marrow transplant or heamato-oncology patients) These types of patients are not routinely cared for within Solent NHS Trust and this largely applies to those working in key areas in the acute trust. This has been in place since 17 April 23.
- There is no requirement for contact testing of staff (eg testing a person if a partner has tested positive) or to test asymptomatic staff based on DOH and UKHSA last update 28 March 24 guidance and 31 March 23 guidance. Asymptomatic testing has not been Solent policy since April 23.

2. Secondly, if the health professional has a respiratory infection, should they be ruling out the possibility of COVID by testing?

Staff who have a respiratory infection and are not well, they are not to attend work until they are well enough to do so. There is no requirement to complete a test as per UKHSA guidance.