

Dear providers

We are writing in light of the updated guidance on 'Exemption from contact isolation for fully vaccinated health and social care staff in exceptional circumstances', available here [COVID-19: management of staff and exposed patients or residents in health and social care settings - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-management-of-staff-and-exposed-patients-or-residents-in-health-and-social-care-settings).

The guidance states that in exceptional circumstances, on a case-by-case basis, where there is a risk to health or safety resulting from staff absence through the provision of a reduced level of care, health and social care staff who have been identified as a contact of a case of COVID-19 and who are fully vaccinated (more than 14 days after the second dose) may be able to continue in their role.

We want to highlight the following key points:

1. The decision to enable a staff member to continue working must be made following a clear risk assessment of the risk to health and safety and with the approval of the organisation's local Director of Infection Prevention and Control and/or the lead professional for health protection and/or Director of Public Health relevant to the organisation;
2. All elements of the guidance regarding vaccination status of the staff member, testing requirements and work activities should be followed;
3. The withdrawal of the requirement to isolate applies only to leaving home to work; individuals must remain isolating at all other times.

If your organisation does not have a Director of Infection Prevention and Control, authorisation can be sought through the East of England Health Protection Team, the CCG Director of Infection Prevention and Control or the Director of Public Health.

If you wish to seek authorisation through the CCG Director of Infection Prevention and Control or the Director of Public Health, we ask that you follow the process below:

1. Please email the completed checklist to C19 Incident Cell [C19Incident.Cell@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:C19Incident.Cell@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) , with the subject header 'Request for exemption from self-isolation requirement'.
2. Requests will be considered at on a daily basis Mon-Sun between the hours of 9-5pm. Decisions will be communicated back to the provider following this meeting.
3. If there is a need for a more urgent decision please state this in your email along with the reason why.

Many thanks for your continued hard work supporting vulnerable people across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

## **Checklist for assessment of exemption from isolation**

Please complete and return the information below to C19 Incident Cell  
[C19Incident.Cell@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:C19Incident.Cell@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) :

Copy of organisational risk assessment demonstrating the exceptional circumstances that require the staff member to return to work

Confirmation of negative PCR test from first day of self-isolation

Confirmation that staff member has had 2 MHRA-approved covid-19 vaccines, with the second dose being administered 14 days prior to the date of the contact with the positive case

Confirmation that staff member understands remaining isolation restrictions that will apply, even if an exemption is authorised

Confirmation that there is a process in place to enable daily LFT testing

Confirmation that the organisation has assessed which of their residents or clients would be classed as clinically extremely vulnerable and therefore couldn't be cared for by the returning staff member

I confirm that all information above has been provided and is accurate and up-to-date to the best of my knowledge.

Signed:

Role:

Date :