

9 May 2022

Covid-19 - Belfast Trust Policy regarding Isolation from Learning Disability Day Care

Following response to FOI/26602 dated 4 April 2022, please can you clarify two points for me about your answer? First, you say the "advice" is not to attend daycare after a contact with a Covid positive person, but I assume this is your Trust's advice not the PHA guidance because the PHA does not mention daycentres in its guidance, only care homes or hospitals.

Belfast Trust follows PHA guidance for close contacts in relation to Covid-19 and Day Centre attendance. Day Centres are considered a health and social care facility. Each case will be considered on an individual basis, and will take into account whether the 'close contact' is vaccinated.

Secondly, as it can only be your Trust's advice then can you confirm that your advice not to attend for 10 days if otherwise fully compliant with the PHA guidance on isolation is advice only and not mandatory because advice does not imply legal obligation, so a service user can choose to disregard that advice?

Belfast Trust's Infection Prevention and Control Team advise service users who are contacts of a known positive case to isolate, in line with public health guidance, which states:

Coronavirus (COVID-19): self-isolating and close contacts | nidirect

"Close contacts who are not fully vaccinated (adults):

*If you are aged 18 and over and you are either unvaccinated (including if you are not able to be vaccinated for a clinical reason), have had one dose only, or if it is less than 14 days since your second dose, you should **self-isolate immediately** for 10 days following last contact with the positive person.*

You cannot end self-isolation early.

Fully vaccinated close contacts:

If you are fully vaccinated, (more than 14 days since you received the second dose of an approved Covid-19 vaccine) or you have taken part in an approved Covid-19 vaccine trial, you are advised to isolate and take a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test as soon as possible.

If this is negative, you should:

- *stop isolating*
- *take daily lateral flow tests (ideally before you leave the house) until the tenth day after the last date of contact with the positive case*

9 May 2022

If any lateral flow test is positive, you should:

- *isolate immediately*
- *report the result*

Most people do not need to book a PCR to confirm the result. However, people who are eligible for new Covid-19 treatments and some other groups should book a PCR test.

Treatments for Coronavirus (COVID-19)

If at any time you develop symptoms, you should isolate immediately and book a PCR, even if the lateral flow test is negative.

If you have been identified as a close contact, even if you are fully vaccinated, you are advised:

- *not to visit hospitals or care homes for 10 days following your last contact with the positive case*
- *to minimise contact with those known to be at higher risk of severe illness if they contract Covid-19*

If all your LFD tests are negative, you do not need to take any more LFD tests after the 10th day of your self-isolation period. This is because you are unlikely to be infectious after the 10th day of your self-isolation period.”

As the public health guidance states people deemed as contacts should minimise their contact with those at higher risk of severe illness and that they should not visit hospitals or care homes, service users are advised not to attend Day Care until 10 days after their contact with the positive case.