

4 April 2022

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

Does your Trust have a policy of requesting service users in learning disability day services (who test negative and are fully vaccinated with no symptoms) to isolate from day care if they have been in contact with a Covid positive person?

Did you ever have this policy, and if so how long was the required isolation period, and when did you cease this policy?

Belfast Trust has not developed specific guidance for people with learning disability attending day care. They will seek advice from the Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Team on a case-by-case basis and follow the IPC guidance outlined below:

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.

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.

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

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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.

Managers advised that service users cannot attend their day care placement for 10 rather than 14 days after close contact with a positive case.