

## **GUIDANCE FROM SKILLS FOR CARE**

It is not anticipated that the new Track and Trace will lead to the closure of hospital wards, care settings and schools due to a staff member or person using the service testing positive, but for the employers in our sector it is important to follow the **COVID-19: management of exposed staff and patients in health and social care settings guidance**.

Whilst some of the information included in the Track and Trace guidance may be concerning to adult social care providers, as it highlights what might be commonly happening within your service (e.g. spent more than 15 minutes within 2 metres of someone or travelled in a car or other small vehicle with someone), the Government guidance in relation to track and trace **does not take into account that in health and social care environments staff and the people you support will be protected by Infection Prevention and Control measures and the use of PPE**. For example; if PPE is being worn then not all staff would be equally effected. If staff work in 'bubbles' then at worst only the staff in that bubble would need to be considered. If staff wear face masks when having conversations at less than a metre again mitigation is in place. Employers would need to risk assess such scenarios and take appropriate action.

The Track and Trace guidance does clearly specify the following: "Health and care workers - if you work in a health or care setting, you should follow the separate guidance for health and care workers on testing and when to return to work. This directs to the following guidance <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-management-of-exposed-healthcare-workers-and-patients-in-hospital-settings/covid-19-management-of-exposed-healthcare-workers-and-patients-in-hospital-settings> which provides further information on staff exposure, staff return to work criteria, exposures in care settings, etc.

As we have found with other areas of COVID-19, it is likely that as the Track and Trace approach is more widely adopted, that Registered Managers will find themselves facing scenarios which the guidance does not cover. We would encourage you to feedback these challenges to your Locality Manager at Skills for Care to raise with government, but equally we recommend Managers to connect with others via the Registered Manager Networks / WhatsApp group / Registered Manager Facebook Group options as detailed in the footer of this e-mail.