

Document Control

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| Title | | | |
| COVID – Surveillance Temperature and symptom checks on staff and patients Standard Operating Procedure | | | |
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| Directorate Trust Wide | | Department Trust Wide | Team/Specialty |
| Version | Date Issued | Status | Comment / Changes / Approval |
| 0.1 | 19/06/2020 | Draft | Initial version for consultation |
| 0.2 | 23/06/2020 | Draft | Changes to the content throughout after consultation |
| 0.3 | 26/06/2020 | Draft | Changes to the procurement process regarding ordering equipment. |
| 0.4 | 01/07/2020 | Draft | Changes to self testing. |
| 1.0 | 03/07/2020 | Final | Approved by GOLD |
| 1.1 | 06/07/2020 | Final | Amendment to clarify management of outpatients with temperatures |
| 1.2 | 08/07/2020 | Final | Changes to symptom scoring table. |
| 1.3 | 12/10/20 | draft | Amendments made in relation to guidance from MHRA relating to infrared thermometers. |
| 1.4 | 22/10/20 | Final | Approved at CRG |
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| Lead Director Medical Director | | | |
| Document Class Standard Operating Procedure | | Target Audience All staff | |
| Distribution List All Staff | | Distribution Method Trust's internal website | |
| Superseded Documents | | | |
| Issue Date 8th July 2020 | Review Date 31 st December 2020 | Review Cycle 6 months due | |

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| Consulted with the following stakeholders: (list all) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Associate Medical Directors• COVID Lead• IP and C team• Head Of Quality an Patient safety• CRG | Contact responsible for implementation and monitoring compliance: Senior Team Education/ training will be provided by: Senior Team |
| Approval and Review Process <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CRG approved 2/7/2020• Gold approved 3/7/2020 | |
| Local Archive Reference G:\EMERGENCYPLANNING (EPRR) Local Path coronavirus\localguidancefolder Filename Temperature check COVID SOP ver 1.2 FINAL 08072020 | |
| Policy categories for Trust's internal website (Bob) COVID | Tags for Trust's internal website (Bob) Staff COVID temperature |

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1. Background

- 1.1. In accordance with national PHE and Government advice the maintenance of COVID secure environments within Northern Devon Healthcare Trust is important for monitoring and preventing the risk of transmission of COVID and keeping our staff and patients safe. COVID surveillance programme is a process that involves more than just temperature checking, however a temperature may flag the need for further consideration of working or remaining at work, or require further clinical discussions about pathways of care. The [MHRA recent guidance on Infrared/Thermal temperature devices](#) support the use of other surveillance and monitoring measures outside of temperature checking with infrared devices alone.

2. Purpose

- 2.1. The Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) has been written to:
- Identify the procedure for the symptom and temperature checks of staff and day visitors to NDHT.
 - Reduce the risk of transmission of COVID between staff and patients and people visiting NDHT.
 - To encourage staff to report when they are feeling unwell. Self-reporting illness is a significant barrier to many staff, and yet early detection of COVID in staff that have mild symptoms is an important pillar of preventing cross infection or contamination. This document will support staff to take responsibility for their symptoms and will help line managers engage with this process.
 - The staff check is part of a surveillance strategy that will ensure we detect risk of COVID transmission at an early stage. If COVID is detected or a COVID test required then this will be dealt with through the processes outlined in the [Contact Tracing SOP](#) and [COVID-19 Testing SOP](#)

3. Scope

- 3.1. This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) relates to all staff groups working at NDHT.
- 3.2. All staff will be asked to monitor their temperature and symptoms at the start of their working day/night and report any symptoms if occur throughout the day/night
- 3.3. Clinical departments will be responsible for ensuring that all day visitors such as outpatients and ward visitors are included within this SOP.

4. Location

- 4.1. This Standard Operating Procedure will be implemented in all areas.

- 4.2. Staff are asked to self-assess their symptoms and manage them in line with the [COVID-19 Testing SOP](#)
- 4.3. Staff in clinical areas will be expected to manage the assessment of all day visitors to their departments.

5. Equipment

- Infrared Thermometers specifically for staff and day visitors will be made available to all areas.
- Infrared Wall mounted devices will be placed in specific locations at acute and community sites

Staff in clinical areas must not use patient equipment for this purpose.

6. Procedure - Staff

- All staff will be asked to check their temperature and symptoms at the start of their working day.
- All staff must assess any symptoms they have and score against the Symptom risk assessment see table below;

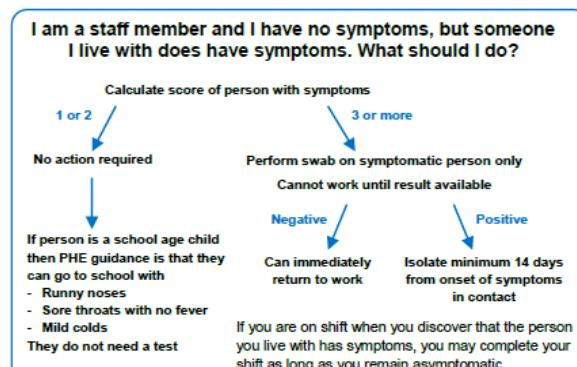
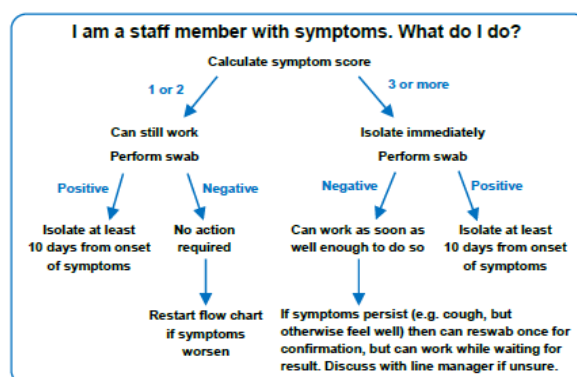
COVID-19 Staff Management

Symptoms

Calculate the score of all people in the household with symptoms using the COVID-19 symptom checker then follow the flows.

| COVID-19 symptom checker | | Score |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------|
| Core symptoms | Fever >37.8 | 3 |
| | New persistent cough | 3 |
| | Loss or change of taste/smell | 3 |
| Other symptoms | New and unexplained muscle aches | 2 |
| | New onset severe or extreme tiredness | 2 |
| | New and unexplained headache | 1 |
| | Sore throat | 1 |

Symptoms that make coronavirus infection unlikely:
sneezing or runny nose



This absence will be classified as COVID and not counted as part of the Sickness absence record.

- Staff can record their temperatures and symptoms in booklets that are available on BOB (this is not mandated but would be deemed good practice)

7. Procedure – visitors

- For visitors it's advised (not mandated) that they have their temperature checked prior to entering the ward as part of maintaining a COVID secure environment.
- If a visitor records a temperature of 37.8°C it can be rechecked 10-30 minutes later. If still records as above the advice would be for them not to visit. They should be advised to follow national guidance on Self Isolation and COVID testing by going to the NHS 119 website.
- Temperature checking is not mandatory and therefore can't be enforced for visitors. However, temperature checking alone is not a single indicator of COVID and only forms part of a wider surveillance programme, consisting of face masks, hand hygiene and social distancing which should be encouraged.

8. Procedure – Outpatients

- All day patients visiting outpatient areas and visitors visiting inpatient areas are advised to have their temperature and symptoms check on arrival in the department. This is surveillance only and does not need to be carried out by a healthcare professional in the first instance.
- If a temperature is recorded of 37.8°C or above the following actions must be taken
 - Ask a clinical member of staff to check temperature using a tympanic temperature device
 - If the patients' temperature still records above 37.8°C this MUST be reported to the clinician to decide on action based on clinical risk and underlying medical history (some non COVID medical conditions may display temperatures)
 - Risks of transmission will be minimal due to PPE, social distancing and hand hygiene requirements.

9. Associated Documentation

9.1. Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust Policies for :

- [COVID 19 Testing Standard Operational Procedure](#)
- [Contact Tracing SOP](#)