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Coronavirus (COVID-19): what you need to do

Stay at home

- Only go outside for food, health reasons or work (but only if you cannot work from home)
- If you go out, stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people at all times
- Wash your hands as soon as you get home

Do not meet others, even friends or family.

You can spread the virus even if you don't have symptoms.

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Public Health
England

Guidance
Occupational health and staff deployment

Updated 4 April 2020

Prompt recognition of cases of COVID-19 among healthcare staff is essential to limit the spread.

Health and social care staff with symptoms of COVID-19 should not come to work.

As a general principle, healthcare staff who provide care in areas for suspected or confirmed patients should not care for other patients. However, this has to be a local decision based on local epidemiology and the configuration of the organisation.

A risk assessment is required for health and social care staff at high risk of complications from COVID-19, including pregnant staff. Employers should:

- discuss with employees who are at risk or are pregnant the need to be deployed away from areas used for the care of those who have, or are clinically suspected of having, COVID-19; or, in the primary care setting, from clinics set up to manage people with COVID-19 symptoms. Refer to the guidance published by the Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecology.
- ensure that advice is available to all health and social care staff, including specific advice to those at risk from

complications.

Bank, agency and locum staff should follow the same deployment advice as permanent staff.

As part of their employer's duty of care, providers have a role to play in ensuring that staff understand and are adequately trained in safe systems of working, including donning and doffing of personal protective equipment. A fit testing programme should be in place for those who may need to wear respiratory protection

In the event of a breach in infection control procedures, staff should be reviewed by occupational health.

Occupational health departments should lead on the implementation of systems to monitor staff illness and absence.

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