

19th November 2020

Test and Trace

As key workers the current guidance for use of the NHS Test and Trace (T&T) app will help with early isolation of frontline staff who are working in groups or who have face to face contact with the public and co-workers.

The downloading of the app in line with Government advice is a voluntary decision but can act as a further safeguard for all our colleagues.

In the unfortunate cases of close contact contamination, the use of the application will hasten the speedy identification of those affected, as well as providing wider confidence for colleagues working within the transport network.

As an industry we are aware that the NHS T&T app has some benefits through early detection via your phone after any prolonged close contact with people who later may test positive from Covid-19.

Early infection is noted by having signs of the three key symptoms (High temperature; a new continuous dry cough, or; a change to the sense of taste and smell).

For those employees who are working in **designated 'Covid 19 secure'** environments and workplaces where appropriate preventative measures are in place and following the NHS England advice, *'sometimes you might not be able to have your smartphone with you. For example, if you need to store your phone in a locker...'* In these circumstances and when you are away from your phone, we advise that the T&T app is 'paused' for notifications (that the Bluetooth contact tracing functionality is switched off for this period only) and that phones carrying the app are isolated and protected to avoid the potential for false positives. This functionality should be enabled in other locations.

By following this advice, it will help prevent the false suggestion of a prolonged contact with an individual, who later tests positive for Covid-19. The removal of this type of false positive is very important to retain confidence in our designated Covid 19 secure environments.

Secure environments and workstations have been created by extra mitigations having been put in place. However, these still require colleagues to maintain strict individual and collective adherence to the best practice guidance of **'Hands, Face and Space'**. Without this basic advice being followed, and colleague interactions carefully controlled, extra mitigations such as, Perspex screens and PPE can be less effective, and the workplace, your work colleagues and yourself, will be placed unnecessarily at risk.

Here's what to do if you are contacted by test and trace:

Tracer contact – you must isolate for 14 days if told to do so during call.

COVID-19 app notification;

- You must contact your line manager and share the notification with your line manager and provide a Self-Isolation note
- Colleagues in your team & members of your household do not have to self-isolate

If you develop symptoms

Book a test through the appropriate route

Your household must isolate for 14 days

If your test is negative

Continue with your 14-day isolation

Your household can stop isolating

If your test is positive

Begin a new 10-day isolation starting the day you first experienced symptoms

You will be contacted by the contact tracing service to provide details of close contacts. You should carefully read the guidance and provide the information requested.

This guidance is subject to change. So, please ensure that you follow the latest advice from the NHS.