

## COVID-19 Policy

### Introduction

Peninsula Ultrasound is committed to providing healthcare throughout the current pandemic while at the same time putting in reasonable and practicable measures to keep staff safe in line with the most up to date government rules and guidance.

### Measures to protect staff and patients

1. Our company infection control policy has been updated to include COVID-19 and a separate risk assessment is in place and available to all staff on the company website.
2. The risk assessment includes the use of all recommended PPE for patient facing staff i.e. aprons, gloves and masks.
3. Handwashing facilities as well as hand sanitiser are available to all staff and patients in all clinics and communal areas.
4. Patients are informed that they need to attend appointments alone unless there is a need for a carer.
5. Patients are informed that it is a requirement to wear a mask in the waiting areas and in the clinic rooms unless they are exempt. On 26<sup>th</sup> January, this will move to being a recommendation rather than a requirement in line with government guidance.
6. From 1 January, all frontline NHS and healthcare staff are required to have had their first vaccination and from 1 April all frontline NHS and healthcare staff are required to have their second vaccination to start or continue their employment in the healthcare sector. *(As stipulated in the publication Vaccination as a Condition of Deployment for Healthcare Workers, 14 January 2022.)*

**Do . . .** politely request that patients wear a mask.

**Do . . .** remind patients that we require them to attend appointments alone.

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**Do** . . . follow all the infection control and COVID infection control procedures as outlined in the risk assessment.

**Don't** . . . ask patients who are exempt for proof of exemption.

**Don't** ... tell patients that they must wear a mask.

**Don't** . . . ask patients about their vaccination status.

**Don't** . . . refuse medical treatment to any patient based on their mask exemption or vaccination status.

**How long to stay at home**

Government advice is, if you have COVID, you should stay at home while you are infectious to others. This can be up to 10 days from when you symptoms start.

If you have symptoms, and you do a lateral flow test and test positive, you should isolate for at least 5 days (please see flowchart). You may end your isolation early if you test negative on a lateral flow test for 2 days in a row. Do not test before day 5.

**Staff absence and return to work**

Please inform the operations manager on the day you test positive for COVID.

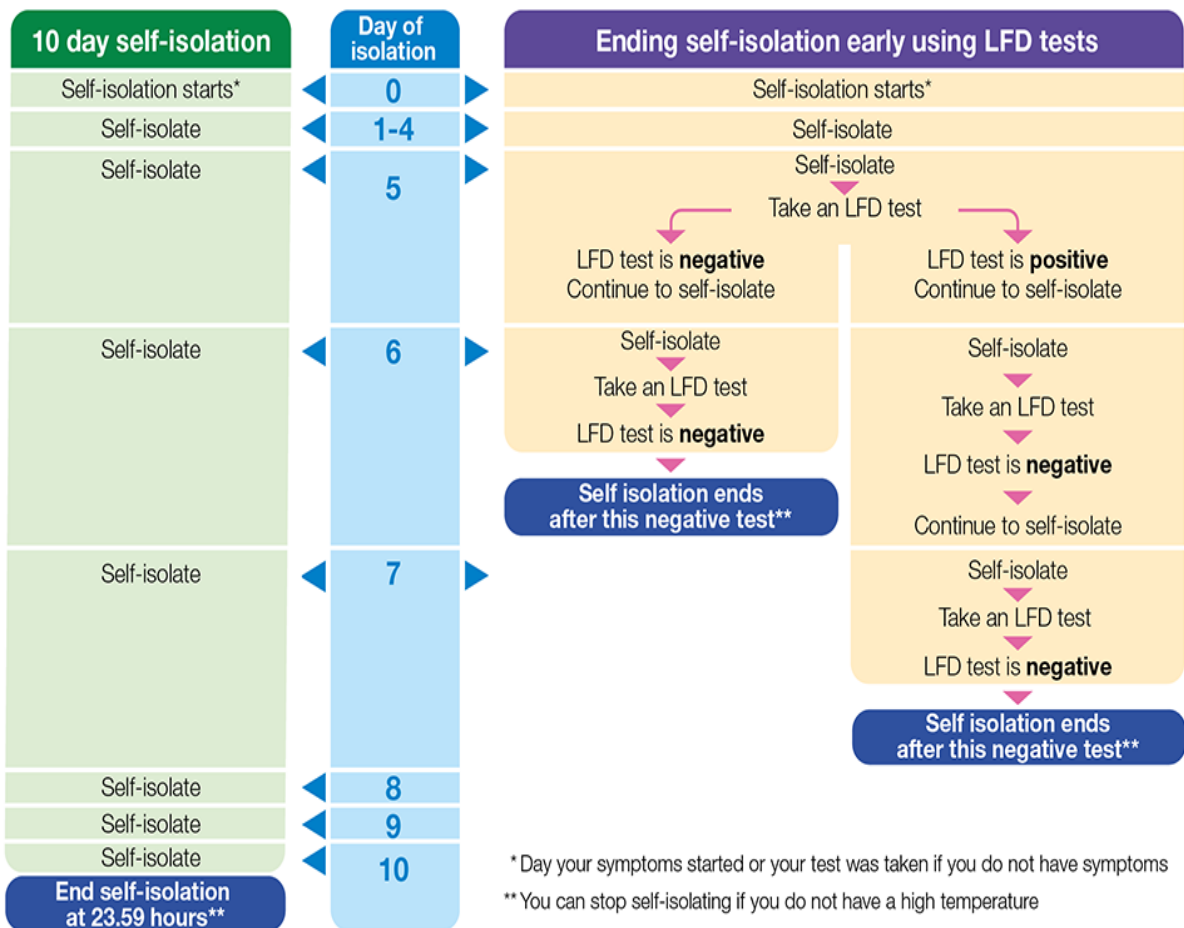
Inform the operations manager as soon as possible as to when you are able to return to work (you can test after day 5 of testing positive-if you test negative for 2 days in a row you may return to work).

Please note that you are not required to isolate if you are double vaccinated or medically exempt from vaccination if a member of your household tests positive for COVID. For the safety of staff and patients, please test daily and only come to work if your tests are negative.

Please see flowchart for step by step guide:

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## Sickness certification

Normal SSP now applies to Covid absence.

Sickness certification should be received by the HR manager within 3 days of return to work to avoid delay in receiving SSP or company sick pay if relevant.

Any sickness on or after 21<sup>st</sup> of the month will be accounted for in the following month.

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