

Caring Today, Planning for Tomorrow



19 October 2020

Extended Waiting Times for ED Hand Overs

It has been recognised that this subject has been causing staff significant concern, the following measures can be taken in relation to this:

- Where present ensure your HALO is kept updated at all times, ask them to liaise with hospital staff on your behalf.
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- Rotate the supervision of your patient with your crew mate where safe and practicable to allow you to have a break from the close contact and the confinement of the ambulance saloon

Duration of wear for surgical masks has been raised on a number of occasions

The World Health Organisation have advised that 'medical masks', their term for what we would call a Type II R fluid repellent surgical mask, can be worn for the entirety of a shift where the following safe guards are in place :

- The mask is changed when wet, soiled, or damaged;
- The mask is not touched to adjust it or is not displaced from the face for any reason; if this happens, the mask should be safely removed and replaced; and hand hygiene performed;
- The mask (as well as other personal protective equipment) is discarded and changed after caring for any patient on contact/droplet precautions for other pathogens

**To consistently
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A member of staff has become symptomatic of COVID Symptoms at work what should they do:

The critical action required is to leave work safely and begin to self-isolate:

- Where it is possible please go to your car or another unoccupied area, where possible do as much of this as possible via phone, avoid coming into contact with others
- **Inform your line manager of situation within hours or EAC out of hours, discuss with them how you can safely leave work as soon as possible**
- Put on a Type II R Fluid Repellent Surgical Mask and return to your home, avoid contact with other people
- Contact RMC and advise them of the situation, they will contact NIAS COVID Testing team who will organise for you to be tested and will support you with advice about next steps

If the member of staff is **at work** should they contact **EAC/NEAC immediately** and then the manager as Control needs to be aware that they cannot pass calls to that crew. If they leave station and go to car to phone manager as above, this delays the information getting to Control.

If you have been confirmed as having COVID-19, if you have any symptoms or concerns about potential symptoms of COVID-19, if you are a contact of someone with COVID-19 or if you believe that you require a test for COVID-19 please contact RMC. RMC will take your details and will pass them to the NIAS COVID-19 testing team who will then contact you to discuss your individual circumstances and will advise you on what you need to do next. delays the information getting to Control.

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