



Update from the Incident Response Team

Issue time: 4.00pm, 16 September 2020

Reminder for all staff – face masks

Facemasks **MUST** be worn by all staff on any DCHS site to reduce the risk of Covid-19 transmission. The only time a mask can be removed is in Covid-19 secure designated settings. To be Covid-19 secure the setting must have been assessed and have the following measures in place:

- Two-metre distancing
- Hand hygiene measures in place
- Frequent surface decontamination
- Ventilation – windows open
- Number of people within the identified maximum room capacity.

Where these conditions cannot be achieved then facemasks **must** be worn. These measures include break times – all dining areas are set up to facilitate appropriate distancing for the benefit of all of us and to keep us safe. This reminder follows the well documented reports of increased Covid-19 infection rates nationally, in addition to local concerns raised around distancing and use of masks generally in the workplace. If further reports are received we may have to take the decision to remove Covid-19 secure allowances and insist masks are worn at all times, without exception.

It's so important that we all remember to wear masks properly, covering both your mouth and your nose, and remember to stick to the 2m distancing rules unless providing face-to-face clinical care. The IP&C team will continue to provide support to teams through regular site visits – if in any doubt please contact the team.

Students and car sharing

In order to continue providing student placements in community settings, we have agreed that students who are **unable** to drive can share a car with another member staff under the following conditions:

- The student must sit diagonally from the driver in the back of the car
- Both the driver and the student must wear face masks
- Hand gel must be available to ensure hand hygiene practices can be followed
- Car windows must be open enough to provide adequate ventilation
- All touch points should be cleaned before and after the journey
- Where possible identify 'bubbles' of staff that the student will travel with to reduce transmission risk.

Where possible, colleagues should continue to travel separately to attend a joint visit in order to reduce any risk of transmission.