**15th June 2023**

**Living with COVID-19: Infection Prevention & Control Update**

**Here is a quick reminder of IPC measures, as we have low levels of COVID-19 infections across the Trust:**

* Blanket mask wearing is no longer required. Staff can continue wearing fluid resistant surgical masks (FRSM) based on personal preference.
* Staff are to wear FRSM (or other appropriate PPE (FFP3 mask based on risk assessment), when providing care to patient with respiratory symptoms/COVID-19 infection.
* During outbreaks all staff will need to wear FRSM & other appropriate PPE (FFP3 mask) base on risk assessment), to control the outbreak.
* Services can exercise local decisions to implement mask wearing based on risk assessment –such as increased number of covid-19/ respiratory infections.
* Further **information on Mask wearing** can be found **here**
* Other important infection control measure include cleaning hands with alcohol gel or washing our hands with soap & water.
* Wiping down surfaces (including door handles, keyboards, mobile phones, work surfaces) with disinfectant wipes.
* Opening of windows to encourage natural ventilation now that we are in summer season.
* Encouraging our service-users to get vaccinated.
* Updating Local workplace risk assessment tools ensure ventilation in the environment is adequate.
* Wearing face filtering particle (FFP3) masks when caring for suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 infection or other respiratory infections. (Staff must ensure they have been fit-tested when wearing FFP3 masks. A FFP3 mask can also be worn when undertaking aerosol generating procedures).
* When caring for patients with COVID-19/respiratory infections maintaining social distancing of 1 meter where possible, increase to 2 meter where feasible, particularly in indoor settings with poor ventilation.
* Outbreaks Managements – where there are two or more cases, please contact the infection control team for risk assessment and review at elft.infectioncontrol@nhs.net
* Further information on **using desk top fans in excess heat waves** found **here**
* **New and improved posters on COVID-19 IPC measures** can be found **here**