



## **British Veterinary Union in Unite, updated Covid-19 guidance**

### **What counts as a Covid-19 contact?**

You are considered to have been a contact if, at any time in the 2 days prior to them testing positive **or** showing symptoms, you were:

- Living in the same household
- Within 1 metre with no mask for **any amount of time**
- Within 1 metre with a mask for **one minute or more**
- Within 2 metres with a mask for **more than 15 minutes at once, or added up over a day**

### **Do I need to tell Test and Trace about contacts at work, even if they are exempt?**

Yes. It is a legal requirement to do so, even if your employer requests you do not mention colleague contacts as they are exempt. Failure to do so is an offence.

You must tell Test and Trace your contacts, and they will decide if any of them are exempt.

### **When do I need to isolate?**

You need to isolate following contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19, if you are contacted by Test and Trace and instructed to do so.

You must also isolate if you develop any symptoms of Covid-19.

From August 16<sup>th</sup>, a number of people are exempt from isolation, as listed below. However, Test and Trace will notify you either way. These exemptions only apply for those who are asymptomatic.

- you are fully vaccinated
- you are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- you have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- you are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

PPE does not automatically exempt you from self isolation, and can only do so based on a risk assessment from a Test and Trace advisor.

### **What should I do if my employer asks me to lie to Test and Trace, or to omit certain information?**

You are legally responsible for your own actions, and you should not lie to Test and Trace, deliberately omit any information, or deliberately mislead the Test and Trace advisor.

If your employer makes any such request, please contact the BVU with urgency, at [bvu@unitetheunion.org](mailto:bvu@unitetheunion.org)

If you are not a member, we are still happy to be contacted in these circumstances.

### **What should I do if I know I have been a contact and I have not yet been contacted by Test and Trace?**

In these circumstances, you are not legally required to isolate, but it may be sensible to do so.

Please contact your line manager as soon as possible and inform them of the situation.

If you develop any symptoms, you should follow government guidance and isolate until you can get a test.

**Government guidance on Covid-19 contacts and self isolation is constantly being updated. Please refer to the government website to make informed and up to date decisions at all times.**