

Covid-19 Update – Test & Trace and its implications for farm teams



Information correct as at 10:00am on 05.06.2020

- Covid-19 Test and Trace system launched on Thursday 28th May in England
- Individuals may be contacted by the NHS and told to self-isolate for 14 days if someone they have been in contact with has tested positive for Covid-19
- We encourage you to ensure you understand how this may impact your farm team

As part of the gradual relaxation of lockdown measures, which include children returning to school and businesses in other sectors beginning to resume trading, on Tuesday 27th May, the Government announced details and requirements of the NHS Test and Trace Service.

The service means anyone who has tested positive for Covid-19 will be contacted and asked to share the name and contact details of people they were in close contact with in the 48 hours before symptoms started. Close contacts include:

- Household members
- People with whom they have been in close contact
- People with whom they have been within 2metres of, for more than 15 minutes

Anyone who is contacted as a close contact will be told to stay at home and self-isolate for 14 days. Other members of their household are not required to do so.

Sharing information on close contacts appears to be voluntary, although strongly advisable, as does the requirement to self-isolate for 14-days. It is believed that, if compliance levels are low on a voluntary basis, this will be made compulsory.

What this means to farming families and those with farm employees:

- If a member of your farm team (employees or family members) test positive for Covid-19
 - It is likely that all other farm team members would be classed as close contacts under the definition above and be asked to self-isolate for 14 days
 - They are eligible for Statutory Sick pay from Day 1 – see our previous Covid-19 update on who is eligible for Statutory Sick Pay.
- If a member of your farm team is contacted as a trace and asked to self-isolate
 - They should isolate for 14 days and are eligible for Statutory Sick pay from Day 1
 - Other members of their household are not required to self-isolate unless the person self-isolating, developed symptoms and subsequently tested positive for Covid-19.
- If someone in the same household as your employee is contacted as a trace and asked to self-isolate
 - The requirement to self-isolate applies to the individual not other members of the household so in this scenario, the employee is not required to do so unless they develop symptoms.

What should you do?

- Employers should lead by example and take a cautious and sensible approach to the easing lockdown restrictions.
- Encourage employees to do the same and to take personal responsibility for minimising their own risk of infection.

- Remind employees of the potential impact of contracting Covid-19 to themselves, their families, other team members and the business.
- Remind employees that they must follow Government guidelines if they develop symptoms of Covid-19
- Raise awareness within your farm team of the above Test and Trace service and the related implications for themselves and others in the business.
- Remind the team that any individuals who test positive for Covid-19 or who self-isolate will be supported in following Government guidelines and getting back to good health.

For further discussion or to help with any questions that you may have, please contact Consultant Support on consultantsupport@kiteconsulting.com or 01902 851007 / 07542 403225

