

Staff Update

05 January 2021



A very happy new year. I hope that you got the chance to enjoy what was left of Christmas.

You will I'm sure, have your own word(s) to describe lockdown 3.0, the most fitting I have found is – deflating. By all measures cases across the UK continue to accelerate, with confirmed infections, hospital and critical care admissions, and sadly fatality, all rising. Our little corner of the country paints a hugely varied picture; rates in Boston, Lincoln and parts of Gainsborough are high whilst the previously eye-watering rates in East Lindsey have dropped well below the national average. Sutton-on-Sea for example, now has infection rates too low to register.

We all try to read something into the data and statistics that we are presented with every day; the only story that this tells for me now, is that there is no story. The contagion of the virus is random and unpredictable, and our data is – at best – 24 hours old. Tomorrow, Sutton may easily be at the top of the national tables – and we wouldn't know it until the day after.

PPE

Stick with it. I know it is uncomfortable, a pest to carry, don, doff and dispose of. But it our best defense, and pretty much our only one. Ensure you have a good supply, and ask for stock before you think you will need it.

Vehicles

If you are using a vehicle for work, please remember to take care to clean and disinfect regularly and frequently. Contact areas such as steering wheel, door handles and gear levers are especially important, and some are less than obvious – like keys. If you have use of a company vehicle this is a must.

Testing

Everyone now has access to test kits, and everyone should be carrying out their own test every week. This is a hugely valuable resource – do not underestimate the usefulness of this in protecting you, your clients and colleagues and of course your friends and family. 1 in 3 infections (apparently) shows no symptoms, and you have access to a facility that helps find and slow this transmission route. Use it; and if you have any questions at all – talk to someone. The guide for testing is here:

<https://www.libertas.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/CV-Testing-Guide.pdf>

I am now talking to two distinct groups amongst our teams, those who have had close or personal contact with COVID, and those who have not. Stay safe, and keep using every tool you have at your disposal; PPE and procedures, but more importantly your own knowledge and professionalism. Remember COVID is not just a threat at work. Use your skill, knowledge and experience to help yourself and your friends, family and loved ones outside work.

It is not for me now, to try to find words to inspire you on to greater things. The contribution made in continuing to support and care for those most in need, enabling hospital discharges and preventing further admissions is absolutely clear and unequivocal. While we have come to accept 'lockdown' as almost just another day, it is in fact a national emergency.

When everyone else goes home we – you – go to work. It is in your blood, and once again I do mean,

Thank you.

Tom



REDUCE THE RISK

Wash your hands || Keep your distance || Use PPE