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Dear Gloucestershire business

Let's keep going by supporting, respecting and protecting each other.

Thank you for your support during what has been a challenging time for our business community and the county as a whole.

Gloucestershire businesses have and will continue to play a vital role in helping to keep our community safe and as cases continue to rise its right and encouraged that we all move forward with caution.

Every business should feel empowered to do what is best for their staff and their customers following a thorough review of their risk assessment. Although no longer a legal requirement, face coverings, social distancing alongside regular handwashing and increased ventilation remain effective ways to help reduce the risk of spreading Covid. I am sure many businesses and residents will have already made the decision to continue with some or all of these measures.

I would also urge organisations to support us in promoting a positive vaccination message to make sure workplaces are as safe as possible. Getting both doses of the vaccine is our best chance of protecting ourselves from the most severe symptoms of COVID-19 and those people who are most at risk from the virus. There are lots of drop in clinics taking place all over the county offering first and second dose vaccines giving your staff the flexibility to go at a time that suits them and your business: <https://covid19.glos.nhs.uk/vaccinations/#link-dropin>

[Test, trace and isolate](#) continue to play an important role in helping to manage the virus. We also know that the more Covid is passed from person to person, the more chance it has to mutate and develop into new variants which could be more transmissible. Please remember that it remains a legal requirement to self-isolate if you are Covid positive and, until at least 16 August, for all contacts of a positive case to isolate.

Twice-weekly rapid testing for people with no symptoms is also key to stopping Covid in it's tracks. By detecting the virus in people who have no symptoms and may not know they have it you can prevent the virus spreading to other people in your organisation. There are more than 100 pharmacies county-wide acting as collection points for test kits to use at home with many pharmacies now offering on-site testing. Visit www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/testing

Thank you again for your ongoing support. Together we can help keep life moving.



Sarah Scott
Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Public Health



Sarah Clark
Head of Environmental Health
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