

TASK (Operation/Process)	Company Activities (Exposure to the Coronavirus COVID 19 – Clinically (Extremely) Vulnerable Persons)	References: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Health England Health and Safety Executive National Health Service
Location	Location of works (workplaces/offices)	
Operational Hours	As directed locally	
Risk Assessor Name	Chas Bray (Health & safety Consultant - COVAL)	

Note: This is a generic risk assessment based on the current threat and level of information being released by Public Health England (PHE). This assessment will need to be reviewed as the current situation escalates and new information is released.

Mandatory PPE (In accordance with the Statutory PPE Assessment)
As directed at site level – based on the hazards/risk associated with the works
(statutory PPE assessment to be completed)

Safe System of Work (SSOW)

A safe system of works will be detailed within the site-specific assessments based on the scope and activity.

This assessment outlines the current information released by Public Health England/Health & Safety Executive and the National Health Service.

- PHE <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>
- NHS <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>
- HSE <https://www.hse.gov.uk/news/coronavirus.htm>
- Gov <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-to-wear-and-make-a-cloth-face-covering/how-to-wear-and-make-a-cloth-face-covering>

We have based this assessment on the information/advice given by PHE/NHS and HSE (links listed above). The hazard/risks and control measures have been compiled



Introduction:

The typical symptoms of coronavirus include fever, loss of taste or smell and a cough that may progress to a severe pneumonia causing shortness of breath and breathing difficulties. Generally, coronavirus can cause more severe symptoms in people with weakened immune systems, older people, and those with long-term conditions like diabetes, cancer and chronic lung disease.

Hazard:

Coronavirus (COVID 19) Infection from the Coronavirus.

The following symptoms may develop in the 14 days after exposure to someone who has COVID-19 infection:

- continuous new cough
- Loss of taste or smell
- fever (high temperature)

Generally, these infections can cause more severe symptoms in people with weakened immune systems (vulnerable persons), older people, and those with long-term medical conditions.

Who could be harmed:

Members of staff and the public.

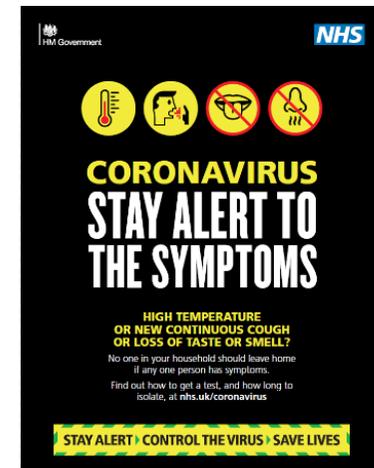
How can you be harmed?

From what we know about other coronaviruses, spread of COVID-19 is most likely to happen when there is close contact (within 2 metres or less) with an infected person. It is likely that the risk increases the longer someone has close contact with an infected person.

Respiratory secretions produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes containing the virus are most likely to be the main means of transmission.

There are 2 main routes by which people can spread COVID-19:

- infection can be spread to people who are nearby (within 2 metres) or possibly could be inhaled into the lungs.
- it is also possible that someone may become infected by touching a surface, object or the hand of an infected person that has been contaminated with respiratory secretions and then touching their own mouth, nose, or eyes (such as touching door knob or shaking hands then touching own face)



Preventing the spread of infection – control measures:

There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19. The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to the virus.

Public Health England (PHE) recommends that the following general cold and flu precautions are taken to help prevent people from catching and spreading COVID-19:

- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze. See [Catch it, Bin it, Kill it](#)
- put used tissues in the bin straight away
- wash your hands with soap and water often – use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available.
- try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell
- clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces
- do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean
- Staff to be provided with hand sanitiser and tissues (where possible)
- Social distancing measures to be implemented as recommended by PHE

Remote working must be encouraged where applicable across all sectors of the business to ensure social distancing (2 metres) and the avoidance of using public transport. All future meetings to be held remotely (if possible) to facilitate increased social distancing. Further operational information will be distributed across each of our business sectors.

Clinically Vulnerable People:

It is the requirement of HR/Operational Teams to identify any clinically vulnerable persons (persons aged over 70/persons with respiratory medical conditions/heart disease/kidney disease/expectant mothers). Once identified, the risk of exposure should be reduced by isolation or social distancing.

Clinically vulnerable people includes those who are:

- aged 70 or older (regardless of medical conditions)
- under 70 with an underlying health condition listed below (ie anyone instructed to get a flu jab as an adult each year on medical grounds):
 - chronic (long-term) respiratory diseases, such as [asthma](#), [chronic obstructive pulmonary disease \(COPD\)](#), emphysema or [bronchitis](#)
 - chronic heart disease, such as [heart failure](#)
 - [chronic kidney disease](#)
 - chronic liver disease, such as [hepatitis](#)
 - chronic neurological conditions, such as [Parkinson's disease](#), [motor neurone disease](#), [multiple sclerosis \(MS\)](#), a learning disability or cerebral palsy
 - [diabetes](#)
 - problems with your spleen – for example, [sickle cell](#) disease or if you have had your spleen removed
 - a weakened immune system as the result of conditions such as [HIV and AIDS](#), or medicines such as [steroid tablets](#) or [chemotherapy](#)
 - being seriously overweight (a body mass index (BMI) of 40 or above)
- those who are pregnant

Note: there are some clinical conditions (Extremely Clinically Vulnerable) which put people at even higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19.

People falling into this group are those who may be at particular risk due to complex health problems such as:

- people who have received an organ transplant and remain on ongoing immunosuppression medication
- people with cancer who are undergoing active chemotherapy or radiotherapy
- people with cancers of the blood or bone marrow such as leukaemia who are at any stage of treatment
- people with severe chest conditions such as cystic fibrosis or severe asthma (requiring hospital admissions or courses of steroid tablets)
- people with severe diseases of body systems, such as severe kidney disease (dialysis)

Control Measures - Social distancing measures must be implemented for all clinically vulnerable persons:

- Avoid contact with someone who is displaying symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19).
These symptoms include high temperature and/or new and continuous cough
- Avoid non-essential use of public transport
- Work from home, where possible
- Avoid large and small gatherings in public spaces
- Avoid gatherings with staff, friends, and family.

We must ensure that we protect all Clinically Extremely Vulnerable persons within our business by ensuring that if they return to work on the 01 August in accordance with current PHE/Gov advice that a risk assessment is compiled to ensure that they can return to work safely.

Emergency Planning:

If you have symptoms of coronavirus infection (persistent cough/high temperature), stay at home:

- single persons living alone must isolate for **10 days**.
- households of more than one person must isolate together for a period of **14 days (the initial infected person can return to work after 10 days if no further symptoms are displayed)**.

The following measures are to be taken:

- this action will help protect everybody within the household and others in your community whilst you are infectious.
- plan ahead and ask others for help to ensure that you can successfully stay at home.
- ask your line manager, friends and family to help you to get the things you need to stay at home.
- stay at least 2 metres (about 3 steps) away from other people in your home whenever possible.
- sleep alone, if that is possible.
- wash your hands regularly for 20 seconds, each time using soap and water.
- stay away from vulnerable individuals such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions as much as possible.
- you do not need to call **NHS111** to go into self-isolation. If your symptoms worsen during home isolation or are no better contact [NHS 111 online](https://www.nhs.uk). If you have no internet access, you should call NHS 111. For a medical emergency dial 999. Further advice can be obtained on line at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>
- You are also required to contact your Line manager.

Health & Safety Risk Assessment	RA Ref No.	Revision 08	DATE	30 July 2020
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The advice issued by Public health England:

- You should remain in your home. Do not go to work, school, or public areas, and do not use public transport or taxis. You cannot go for a walk.
- You will need to ask friends or relatives if you require help with buying groceries, other shopping or picking up medication. Alternatively, you can order medication by phone or online. You can also order your shopping online. Make sure you tell delivery drivers to leave items outside for collection if you order online. The delivery driver should not come into your home.

Note: this risk assessment will be reinforced by safety briefings and managers updates.

Health & Safety Consultant (COVAL)	Chas Bray	Signed:	
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