

Health & Safety Risk Assessment	RA Ref No.	Revision 12	DATE	20 October 2020
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TASK (Operation/Process)	Company Activities (Construction Works) (Exposure to the Coronavirus COVID 19)	References: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PHE & National Institute for Health Protection (NIHP) • Health and Safety Executive • National Health Service • Build Uk/CLC
Location	Location of works (Construction Sites)	
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 PHE/National Institute for Health Protection (NIHP). This assessment will need to be reviewed as the current situation escalates and new information/guidance is released.

The HSE is the relevant enforcing authority for GOV/NIHP guidelines. If a site is not consistently implementing the measures set out by NIHP, it may be subject to enforcement action.

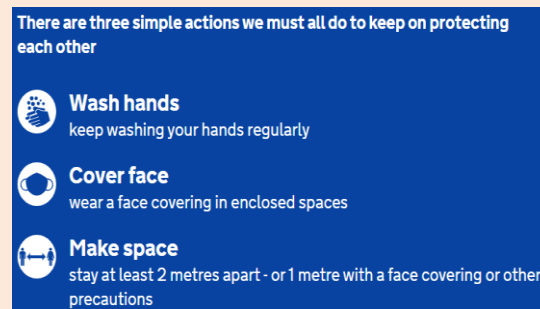
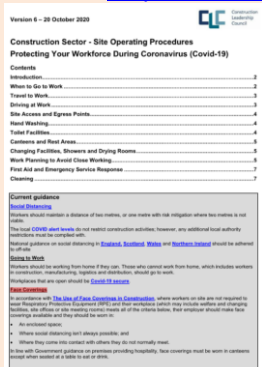
Mandatory PPE (In accordance with the Statutory PPE Assessment)
As directed at site level – based on the hazards/risk associated with the works
 (statutory PPE assessment to be completed)

Note: Face coverings are to be advised in canteens and crowded areas around the project.

Safe System of Work (SSOW)

A safe system of works will be detailed within the site-specific method statement & risk assessments based on the scope and activity. This assessment outlines the current information released by Public Health England/Health & Safety Executive & National Health Service & Build UK.

- PHE/NIHP <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>
- NHS <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>
- HSE <https://www.hse.gov.uk/news/coronavirus.htm>
- Build UK <https://builduk.org/coronavirus/>
- GOV (Construction) <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/construction-and-other-outdoor-work>
- 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/NHIP/NHS/HSE & Build UK (CLC) (links listed above). The hazard/risks and control measures have been compiled from information available.

These are exceptional circumstances, and the construction industry must comply with the latest Government advice on Coronavirus at all times. The health and safety requirements of any construction activity must also not be compromised at this time.

We are aware that emergency services are also under great pressure and may not be in a position to respond as quickly as usual. Sites should remind the workforce at every opportunity of the Site Operating Procedures which are aimed at protecting them, their colleagues, their families and the UK population.

Note: the following updates have now been included within this assessment:

- Introduction of the 3 x Tier Alert Levels (Medium/High/Very-High) – It may be necessary to introduce additional local controls based on the alert level changing. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-covid-alert-levels-what-you-need-to-know> The local COVID alert levels do not restrict construction activities; however, any additional local authority restrictions must be complied with.
- If sites operate a canteen then a NHS QR Code must be established for test and trace - <https://www.gov.uk/create-coronavirus-qr-poster>
- If sites operate a welfare facility where there is a means of boiling water and heating food (microwave etc.) – This is not defined as a canteen so no QR Code required.
- Face coverings should be made available to all staff as follows:
 - where workers on site are not required to wear Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE) and their workplace (which may include welfare and changing facilities, site offices or site meeting rooms) meets all of the criteria below, their employer should make face coverings available and they should be worn in;
 - An enclosed space;
 - Where social distancing isn't always possible; and where they come into contact with others they do not normally meet.
 - In line with Government guidance on premises providing hospitality, face coverings must be worn in canteens except when seated at a table to eat or drink

Introduction:

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. Novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is a new strain of coronavirus first identified in Wuhan City, China

Travel to Site:

Workers in the construction industry should follow the guidance on Staying Alert and away from others (social distancing). Where you cannot work from home, you must follow the same principles of social distancing while travelling to and from work and while at work. Wherever possible you should travel to site alone using your own transport and sites need to consider:

- Parking arrangements for additional cars and bicycles
- Other means of transport to avoid public transport e.g. cycling
- Providing hand cleaning facilities at entrances and exits. This should be soap and water wherever possible or hand sanitiser if water is not available
- How someone taken ill would get home
- We should avoid the use public transport, if this is not possible then avoid these busy times if you can (05:45 - 8:15 and 16:00 - 17:30)
- If you need to use public transport a face covering must be worn.

We will liaise and communicate with our client to discuss the options listed above.

Site Access Points:

- Stop all non-essential visitors
- Introduce staggered start and finish times to reduce congestion
- Plan site access and egress points to enable social distancing – you may need to change the number of access points, either increase to reduce congestion or decrease to enable monitoring, including in the case of emergencies
- Allow plenty of space between people waiting to enter site
- Use signage:
 - such as floor markings, to ensure 2 metre distance is maintained between people when queuing
 - reminding workers not to attend if they have symptoms of Coronavirus (Covid-19) and to follow guidelines
- Remove or disable entry systems that require skin contact e.g. fingerprint scanners
- Require all workers to wash their hands for 20 seconds using soap and water when entering and leaving the site
- Regularly clean common contact surfaces in reception, office, access control and delivery areas e.g. scanners, turnstiles, screens, telephone handsets, desks, particularly during peak flow times
- Reduce the number of people in attendance at site inductions and consider holding them outdoors wherever possible

- Where loading and offloading arrangements on site will allow it, drivers should remain in their vehicles. Where drivers are required to exit their vehicle, they should wash or sanitise their hands before handling any materials
- Consider arrangements for monitoring compliance

Note: due to NHS Test and Trace attendance registers must be recorded and kept for a least 21 days.

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 (clinically 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:

1. infection can be spread to people who are nearby (within 2 metres) or possibly could be inhaled into the lungs.
2. 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)

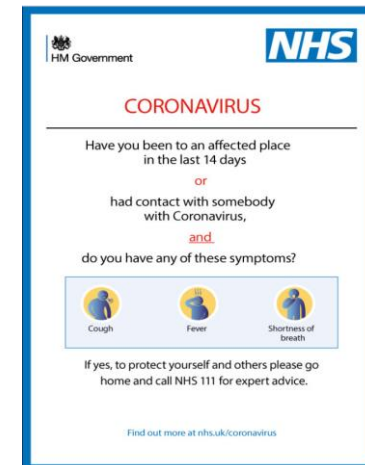
There is currently little evidence that people who are without symptoms are infectious to others

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.

PHE/NHIP recommends that the following general cold and flu precautions are taken to help prevent people from catching and spreading COVID-19:

- remote working to be encouraged where possible
- 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 (see further instructions below).
- try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell
- clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces



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- 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 NHIP/Build UK

Welfare provision will be provided by the Principal Contractor, we may need to advise/monitor in regard to this industry requirement)

Welfare - Hand Washing

- Allow regular breaks to wash hands
- Provide additional hand washing facilities (e.g. pop ups) to the usual welfare facilities, particularly on a large spread out site or where there are significant numbers of personnel on site, including plant operators
- Ensure adequate supplies of soap and fresh water are readily available and kept topped up at all times
- Provide hand sanitiser (minimum 60% alcohol based) where hand washing facilities are unavailable
- Regularly clean the hand washing facilities
- Provide suitable and sufficient rubbish bins for hand towels with regular removal and disposal

Welfare - Toilets:

- Restrict the number of people using toilet facilities at any one time (e.g. use a welfare attendant) and use signage, such as floor markings, to ensure 2 metre distance is maintained between people when queuing
- Wash or sanitise hands before and after using the facilities
- Enhance the cleaning regimes for toilet facilities, particularly door handles, locks and the toilet flush
- Portable toilets should be avoided wherever possible, but where in use these should be cleaned and emptied\more frequently
- Provide suitable and sufficient rubbish bins for hand towels with regular removal and disposal

Welfare - Canteens & Rest Areas:

Where possible, workers should be encouraged to bring their own food. They should also be required to stay on site once they have entered it and avoid using local shops. Where there are no practical alternatives, workplace canteens may remain open to provide food to staff with appropriate adjustments for social distancing. Canteens should provide a takeaway service providing pre-prepared and wrapped food only.

- Consider increasing the number or size of facilities available on site if possible
- The capacity of each canteen or rest area should be clearly identified at the entry to each facility, and where necessary attendants provided to supervise compliance with social distancing measures
- Break times should be staggered to reduce congestion and contact at all times
- Drinking water should be provided with enhanced cleaning measures of the tap mechanism introduced
- Frequently clean surfaces that are touched regularly, using standard cleaning products e.g. kettles, refrigerators, microwaves
- Hand cleaning facilities or hand sanitiser should be available at the entrance to any room where people eat and should be used by workers when entering and leaving the area

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- A distance of 2 metres should be maintained between users, wherever possible
- All rubbish should be put straight in the bin and not left for someone else to clear up
- Tables should be cleaned between each use
- Crockery, eating utensils, cups etc. should not be used unless they are disposable or are washed and dried between use
- Payments should be taken by contactless card wherever possible
- Canteen staff should wash their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before and after handling food
- Canteen staff and workers may use rest areas if they apply the same social distancing measures
- Consider arrangements for monitoring compliance

Welfare - Changing Facilities/Drying Rooms:

- Consider increasing the number or size of facilities available on site if possible
- Based on the size of each facility, determine how many people can use it at any one time to maintain a distance of two metres
- Restrict the number of people using these facilities at any one time e.g. use a welfare attendant
- Introduce staggered start and finish times to reduce congestion and contact at all times
- Introduce enhanced cleaning of all facilities throughout the day and at the end of each day
- Provide suitable and sufficient rubbish bins in these areas with regular removal and disposal

Welfare – First Aid Responders:

- The primary responsibility is to preserve life and first aid should be administered if required and until the emergency services attend.
- When planning site activities, the provision of adequate first aid resources must be agreed between the relevant parties on site
- Emergency plans including contact details should be kept up to date
- Consideration must also be given to potential delays in emergency services response, due to the current pressure on resources
- Consider preventing or rescheduling high-risk work or providing additional competent first aid or trauma resource

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 either isolation or social distancing, following NHIP guidelines. *See separate risk assessment regarding the protection and social distancing for vulnerable persons.*

Avoiding Close Working (Social Distancing) - There will be situations where it is not possible or safe for workers to distance themselves from each other by 2 metres (social distancing).

At which time the following general principles apply:

- Work requiring skin to skin contact should not be carried out
- Plan all other work to minimise contact between workers

- Non-essential work that will restrict social distancing measures should be avoided if possible
- If social distancing cannot be avoided and must be carried out for the site to continue operating, then the following measures apply (eliminate/reduce/isolate/control/PPE):
 - Where the social distancing measures (2 metres) cannot be applied, we can reduce down to 1 metre plus with mitigating circumstances:
 - Minimise the frequency and time workers are within 2 metres of each other
 - Minimise the number of workers involved in these tasks
 - Workers should work side by side, or facing away from each other, rather than face to face
 - Lower the worker capacity of lifts and hoists to reduce congestion and contact at all times
 - Regularly clean common touchpoints, doors, buttons, handles, vehicle cabs, tools, equipment etc.
 - Increase ventilation in enclosed spaces
 - Workers should wash their hands more frequently, before and after using any equipment
 - Where face to face working is essential to carry out a task:
 - Reduce the exposure time of face to face activities as much as possible
 - Consider introducing an enhanced authorisation process for these activities
 - Provide additional supervision to monitor and manage compliance
 - Keep groups of workers that have to work within 2/1 metres:
 - Together in teams e.g. (do not change workers within teams)
 - As small as possible
 - Away from other workers where possible
 - If this cannot be avoided (Essential Work Activity), then PPE may be required as a last resort.
- Stairs should be used in preference to lifts or hoists
- Where lifts or hoists must be used:
 - Lower their capacity to reduce congestion and contact
 - Regularly clean touchpoints, doors, buttons etc.
- Increase ventilation in enclosed spaces
- Regularly clean the inside of vehicle cabs and between use by different operators

Cleaning:

Enhanced cleaning procedures should be in place across the site, particularly in communal areas and at touch points including:

- Taps and washing facilities
- Toilet flush and seats

- Door handles and push plates
- Handrails on staircases and corridors
- Lift and hoist controls
- Machinery and equipment controls
- Food preparation and eating surfaces
- All areas used for eating must be thoroughly cleaned at the end of each break and shift, including chairs, door handles, vending machines and payment device
- Telephone equipment
- Keyboards, photocopiers and other office equipment

Emergency Planning:

If you have symptoms of coronavirus infection (persistent cough/high temperature/loss of taste and smell), stay at home and book a test (do not come to work):

1. Book a COVID Test:
 - a. Negative test result - A negative result means the test did not find coronavirus.
 - i. You do not need to self-isolate if your test is negative, as long as:
 - everyone you live with who has symptoms tests negative
 - everyone in your support bubble who has symptoms tests negative
 - you were not told to self-isolate for 14 days by NHS Test and Trace – if you were, see [what to do if you've been told you've been in contact with someone who has coronavirus](#)
 - you feel well – if you feel unwell, stay at home until you're feeling better
 - Note: if you have been contacted by test and trace you will need to continue isolating for 14 days.
 - a) Positive test result
 - i. A positive result means you had coronavirus when the test was done. If your test is positive, you must self-isolate immediately.
 - If you had a test because you had symptoms, keep self-isolating for at least 10 days from when your symptoms started.
 - If you had a test but have not had symptoms, self-isolate for 10 days from when you had the test.
 - Anyone you live with, and anyone in your support bubble, must self-isolate for 14 days from when you start self-isolating

Note: if you are contacted by the NHS Test & Trace system you may be required to isolate for 14 days.

Facial Coverings:

It is now mandatory for face coverings to be worn when travelling on public transport in England, there are exceptions for staff that have difficulties breathing and suffer from a respiratory condition. A full list of the exemptions can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers>.

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- An enclosed space;
- Where social distancing isn't always possible; and where they come into contact with others they do not normally meet.
- In line with Government guidance on premises providing hospitality, face coverings must be worn in canteens except when seated at a table to eat or drink

Wearing a face covering

A cloth face covering should cover your mouth and nose while allowing you to breathe comfortably. It can be as simple as a scarf or bandana that ties behind the head. When wearing a face covering always follow the following:

- Wash your hands or use hand sanitiser before putting it on and after taking it off and after use.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth at all times and store used face coverings in a plastic bag until you have an opportunity to wash them.
- Do not touch the front of the face covering, or the part of the face covering that has been in contact with your mouth and nose.
- Once removed, make sure you clean any surfaces the face covering has touched.
- You should wash a face covering regularly. It can go in with other laundry, using your normal detergent.
- When wearing a face covering, take care to tuck away any loose ends.

Note: staff should be allowed to wear face coverings in the workplace if they wish to do so.

Note: this risk assessment will be reinforced by safety briefings and managers updates. This assessment should also be made site specific as required.

Note: if the location of the workplace is within a local lockdown area (high risk area) then this assessment may need to be updated in accordance with the Gov guidelines specific to the area.

Health & Safety Consultant (COVAL)	Chas Bray	Signed:	
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