

Health & Safety Risk Assessment	RA Ref No.	Revision 10	DATE	21 September 2020
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TASK (Operation/Process)	Company Activities (Exposure to the Coronavirus COVID 19 – Clinically (Extremely) Vulnerable Persons)	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 (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 PHE/National Institute for Health Protection (NIHP). 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)

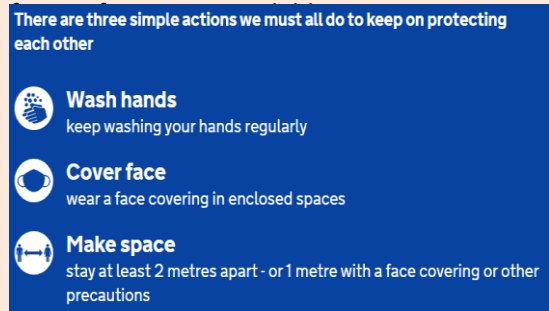
Safe System of Work (SSOW)

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 NIHP/Health & Safety Executive and the National Health Service.

- NIHP <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 NIHP/NHS and HSE (links listed above). The hazard/risks and control measures have been compiled



There are three simple actions we must all do to keep on protecting each other

- Wash hands**
keep washing your hands regularly
- Cover face**
wear a face covering in enclosed spaces
- Make space**
stay at least 2 metres apart - or 1 metre with a face covering or other precautions

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.

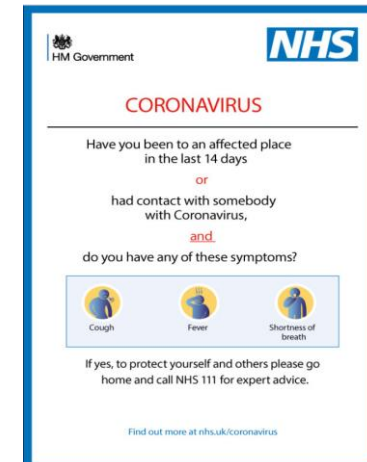
How can you be harmed?

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)



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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/Gov/NIHP recommends that the following precautions are taken to help prevent people from catching and spreading COVID-19:

- If possible, to work from home (discuss with you Line Manager)
- Try and avoid the use of public transport
- 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 NIHP

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 & Clinically Vulnerable Persons within our business by ensuring that social distancing measures can be practiced in accordance with current PHE/NIHP/Gov advice that a risk assessment is compiled to ensure that they can return to work safely.

Note: shielding may be advise in local areas of the UK where additional lockdown measures have been introduced.

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.

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

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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