



COVID-19 General Workplace Risk Assessment

COVID-19 is an illness that can affect your lungs and airways and is caused by a virus called Coronavirus. The symptoms can be mild, moderate, severe, or fatal.

This is a draft copy of a **generic Risk Assessment** for dealing with COVID-19 in the workplace. It is not likely to cover all scenarios and each employer should consider their own unique circumstances. Much more specific assessments, such as those for healthcare workers, may look quite different although many of the principles would still be relevant.

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed	Controls Required	Additional Controls	Action by who?	Action by when?	Done
Spread of Covid-19 Coronavirus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council staff Volunteers Visitors to your premises Cleaners Contractors Drivers Vulnerable groups – elderly, pregnant workers, those with existing underlying health conditions Anyone else who physically comes in contact with you in relation to your council 	<p><u>Hand Washing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hand washing facilities with soap and water in place Stringent hand washing taking place See hand washing guidance. https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/best-way-to-wash-your-hands/ Drying of hands with disposable paper towels https://www.nursingtimes.net/news/research-and-innovation/paper-towels-much-more-effective-at-removing-viruses-than-hand-dryers-17-04-2020/ Council staff encouraged to protect the skin by applying emollient cream regularly 	<p>Council staff to be reminded on a regular basis to wash their hands for 20 seconds with water and soap and the importance of proper drying with disposable towels. Also reminded to catch coughs and sneezes in tissues – Follow ‘Catch it, Bin it, Kill it’ and to avoid touching face, eyes, nose or mouth with unclean hands. Tissues will be made available throughout the workplace.</p> <p>Encourage council staff to report any problems and carry out skin checks as part of a skin surveillance programme. https://www.hse.gov.uk/skin/professional/health-surveillance.htm</p> <p>To help reduce the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) reminding everyone of the public health advice - https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/news/covid-19-coronavirus</p>			

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/emollients/ • Gel sanitisers in any area where washing facilities not readily available <p>Cleaning Frequently cleaning and disinfecting objects and surfaces that are touched regularly particularly in areas of high use such as door handles, light switches and reception areas using appropriate cleaning products and methods.</p> <p>Social Distancing Social Distancing - Reducing the number of persons in any work area to comply with the 2-metre (6.5 foot) gap recommended by the Public Health Agency.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people</p> <p>Taking steps to review work schedules including start & finish times/shift</p>	<p>Posters, leaflets and other materials are available for display.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19</p> <p>Rigorous checks will be carried out by line managers to ensure that the necessary procedures are being followed.</p> <p>Council staff to be reminded on a daily basis of the importance of social distancing both in the workplace and outside of it. Management checks to ensure this is adhered to.</p>			
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		<p>patterns, working from home etc. to reduce number of workers on site at any one time. Also relocating workers to other tasks.</p> <p>Redesigning processes to ensure social distancing in place.</p> <p>Conference calls to be used instead of face to face meetings.</p> <p>Ensuring sufficient rest breaks for council staff.</p> <p>Social distancing also to be adhered to in canteen area and smoking area.</p> <p><u>Wearing of Gloves</u></p> <p>Where Risk Assessment identifies wearing of gloves as a requirement of the job, an adequate supply of these will be provided. Staff will be instructed on how to remove gloves carefully to reduce contamination and how to dispose of them safely.</p> <p><u>PPE</u></p> <p><i>Public Health guidance on the use of PPE (personal protective equipment) to protect against COVID-19 relates to</i></p>	<p>Council staff to be reminded that wearing of gloves is not a substitute for good hand washing.</p>			
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		<p><i>health care settings. In all other settings individuals are asked to observe social distancing measures and practice good hand hygiene behaviours.</i></p> <p>Where RPE is a requirement for risks associated with the work undertaken the following measures will be followed:</p> <p>Tight-fitting respirators (such as disposable FFP3 masks and reusable half masks) rely on having a good seal with the wearer's face. A face fit test will be carried out to ensure the respiratory protective equipment (RPE) can protect the wearer. Wearers must be clean shaven.</p> <p><u>Symptoms of Covid-19</u></p> <p>If anyone becomes unwell with a new continuous cough or a high temperature in the office they will be sent home and advised to follow the stay at home guidance.</p>	<p>To minimise the risk of transmission of COVID-19 during face-fit testing the following additional measures should be carried out – Both the fit tester and those being fit tested should wash their hands before and after the test.</p> <p>Those being fit tested with non-disposable masks should clean the mask themselves before and immediately after the test using a suitable disinfectant cleaning wipe (check with manufacturer to avoid damaging the mask). Test face pieces that cannot be adequately disinfected (e.g. disposable half masks) should not be used by more than one individual. Fit testers should wear disposable gloves when undertaking cleaning of the tubes, hoods etc. and ensure they remove gloves following the correct procedure (PDF)</p> <p>Reference https://www.hse.gov.uk/news/face-mask-ppe-rpe-coronavirus.htm</p> <p>Internal communication channels and cascading of messages through senior staff will be carried</p>			
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		<p>Senior staff will maintain regular contact with council staff members during this time.</p> <p>If advised that a member of council staff or public has developed Covid-19 and were recently on your premises (including where a member of the council has visited other premises), the management team of the council will contact the Public Health Authority to discuss the case, identify people who have been in contact with them and will take advice on any actions or precautions that should be taken.</p> <p><u>Drivers</u></p> <p>Procedures in place for drivers to ensure adequate welfare facilities available during their work.</p> <p>Reference https://www.hse.gov.uk/news/drivers-transport-delivery-coronavirus.htm</p>	<p>out regularly to reassure and support employees in a fast-changing situation.</p> <p>Senior staff will offer support to staff who are affected by Coronavirus or has a family member affected.</p> <p>Communicate with companies you deliver to/from to ensure welfare facilities will be available to drivers. Allowing delivery drivers adequate breaks to avail of proper welfare facilities.</p>			
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		<p>COVID-19-guidance on freight transport</p> <p>Persons should not share vehicles or taxis, where suitable distancing cannot be achieved.</p> <p><u>Mental Health</u> Council management will promote mental health & wellbeing awareness to council staff during the Coronavirus outbreak and will offer whatever support they can to help. Reference - https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing/</p>	<p>Regular communication of mental health information and open door policy for those who need additional support.</p>			
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Any views or opinions expressed in this document are for guidance only and are not intended as a substitute for appropriate professional advice. We have taken all reasonable steps to ensure the information contained herein is accurate at the time of writing. In relation to any particular risk assessment issues, readers are advised to seek specific advice.

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