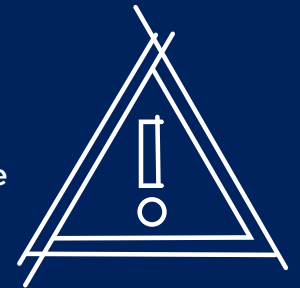


The unprecedented nature of the COVID-19 pandemic has presented the construction industry with challenges and concerns. A key concern is protecting the health and safety of those working across construction sites in this highly fluid and fast developing situation.

We have been monitoring and implementing the latest guidance and advice and have summarised best practice focusing on protecting your workforce, providing adequate welfare facilities, emergency planning, preparedness and response, and site safety.



In March the Construction Leadership Council (CLC) published the first draft of industry-agreed Site Operating Procedures. The CLC advised our industry that if an activity cannot be undertaken safely due to a lack of suitably qualified personnel being available or social distancing measures, it should not take place. The Site Operating Procedures (SOP) [can be found here](#).

We have summarised some key measures that if implemented should help to protect those working within a live construction site environment and help to minimise the risk of spread of infection.

PROTECTING YOUR WORKFORCE:



- Ensure your workforce is aware of UK government's guidance on when to self-isolate: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) and what you need to do](#).
- Keep contact numbers and emergency contact details up to date.
- Protect the physical and mental wellbeing of your workforce including any sub-contractors:
 - Ensure managers and supervisors know how to spot symptoms of COVID-19 and that procedures are in place in case someone in the workplace is potentially infected and needs to take the appropriate action.
 - There may be increased anxiety and stress. Make sure your workforce is aware of the support available to them.

PROVIDE ADEQUATE WELFARE FACILITIES:



- Provide hand washing facilities in addition to the usual welfare facilities. This will need to consider site conditions and number of workers. Restrict the numbers using these facilities at any one time.
- Ensure facilities are available to wash hands for 20 seconds with soap and hot water, and encourage everyone to do so regularly, including visitors and delivery drivers. If using a water limiter (i.e. a push button), make sure these are providing a minimum of 20 seconds of hot water.
- Provide extra supplies of soap, hand sanitiser, paper towels and tissues, as well as enough rubbish bins for paper towels/tissues and implement regular and correct removal and disposal methods.
- Enable canteen and eating arrangements - workers should be required to stay on site once they have entered it.
- Introduce enhanced cleaning regimes - train cleaners to understand what, when and how to clean. Ensure that cleaners are using the correct products to prevent viral transmission - [refer to guidance here](#).
- Provide and share toolbox talks on topics, such as practicing respiratory hygiene on site.
- Display the approved posters, leaflets and other materials ([refer to Government site](#)).

EMERGENCY PLANNING, PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE:



- Develop a response plan if someone on site becomes ill with suspected COVID-19. This should include the immediate response, such as isolating the individual(s) and contacting the local health authority.
- If workers, contractors and suppliers cannot attend site, decide what measures are needed on site.
- All workers are to work remotely from home unless their attendance on site is essential and cannot be done from home.
- Plan to identify persons who may be at risk without stigma or discrimination.
- Test your IT systems now to ensure they will work when/if needed.
- Communicate to workers and contractors about the response plan and their role in it.
- Ensure the response plan addresses the wellbeing implications of any COVID-19 cases.
- Stay informed and follow the advice given by healthcare providers.

SITE SAFETY:



- Wherever possible workers should travel to work alone using their own transport.
- Continue to consult with staff and keep all forms of communication open.
- Ensure emergency services have access to, or through, the site in the event of temporary site closure (liaising with the emergency services directly as necessary).
- Maintain the required numbers and competency of staff to supervise staff/operations, sickness cover i.e. first aiders, site management, cleaners, security, etc. Consider upskilling as required.
- Consider what temporary works will need to be maintained during a temporary site closure e.g. hoarding, temporary traffic management, excavations, scaffolding, etc.
- Review use of potential cross contamination hot spots.

USEFUL RESOURCES:



- UK government: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) and what you need to do.](#)
- UK government: [Guidance for employers and businesses on Coronavirus \(COVID-19\).](#)
- The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Latest Information and Advice.](#) Provides specific information for employers on:
 - Fit testing face masks to avoid transmission (COVID-19).
 - Arrangements for driver welfare and hours of work (including ensuring that drivers have access to welfare facilities in the premises they visit).
 - Health/medical surveillance.
 - Protecting home workers.



FIND OUT MORE

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