

Construction Sites COVID-19 Guidance

Site Operations/Safety

Dealing with illness on site

- Site operatives should be advised not to come to site if they have symptoms including a high temperature, new persistent cough, or are a vulnerable person, or living with someone self-isolating or vulnerable.
- If a site operative develops symptoms, they should return home, avoid touching anything and ensure they cough or sneeze into a tissue and put it in a bin (or if they do not have tissues, cough and sneeze into the crook of their elbow).
- They must then follow the guidance on self-isolation and not return to work until their period of self-isolation has been completed.

Travel

- All site operatives should travel alone using their own transport.
- Additional parking spaces may need to be added to sites for extra cars or bicycles.
- Site operatives must avoid using public transport.
- Provide additional hand cleaning facilities at entrances and exits, ideally soap and water.
- Review and communicate emergency procedures to include how someone who is taken ill would get home.
- Driving distances must be reasonable, so that overnight stays are not needed.
- Where public transport is the only option for workers, the following action is specifically requested: changing and staggering site opening hours to reduce congestion on the network. In central London, avoid using the tube during peak times of 05:45 –7:30 and 16:00–17:30.

Site access points

- Stop all non-essential visitors.
- Stagger start and finish times to reduce congestion.
- Monitor access points to ensure social distancing. Ensure there is enough space so that 2m distancing can be achieved.
- All entry systems which require skin contact i.e. fingerprint scanners should be removed or disabled.
- Require all operatives and visitors to wash/clean their hands before entering or leaving site
- Regularly clean all common contact surfaces in reception areas and entry points, particularly during peak flow times
- Consider outdoor inductions and briefings to allow distancing. Reduce numbers
- Drivers should remain in their vehicles if the load will allow it and must wash or clean their hands before unloading goods and materials

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Hand washing

- Increase hand washing sites, especially on larger, spread-out sites.
- Ensure soap and water are readily available and regularly topped up.
- Provide hand sanitiser where soap and water are not available.
- Increase the cleaning regime of facilities, checks on soap and sanitiser levels.
- Provide sufficient bins for the disposal of paper hand towels and regularly remove and dispose of them.
- Sites will need extra supplies of soap, 60%+ alcohol-based hand sanitiser and paper towels, and these should be securely stored.

Toilet facilities

- Restrict those using facilities at any one time e.g. use a welfare attendant.
- Encourage hand washing before and after use.
- Encourage cleaning regimes, to include door handles, locks and toilet flush.
- Portable toilets should be avoided wherever possible, but where in use these should be cleaned and emptied more frequently.
- Provide more bins for hand towels, and ensure regular removal and disposal.

Changing facilities

- Introduce staggered start and finish times.
- Enhanced cleaning of all facilities throughout the day and at the end of each day.
- Consider increasing the number or size of facilities on site. Determine on the size of each facility and how many people can use it based on distancing rules.
- Provide suitable and sufficient rubbish bins in these areas with regular removal and disposal.

Canteens/Eating arrangements

There is a requirement to provide means for the heating of food and making of hot drinks. However, in these exceptional circumstances, further steps should be taken:

- Clean between every use of the kettle and microwave etc. If this isn't possible, remove.
- Clean tables between use.
- Enhance cleaning of other areas, including chairs, door handles etc.
- Consider additional eating areas.
- Stagger break times to reduce congestion and contact.
- Provide hand cleaning facilities at the entrance of any room or area.
- Ask your workforce to bring pre-prepared meals and refillable drinks bottles from home.
- Sit 2 metres apart.
- Provide drinking water and enhance the cleaning of any taps.
- Where catering is provided on site, it should provide pre-prepared and wrapped food only – payments should be taken by contactless card wherever possible. Crockery, eating utensils, cups etc. should not be used.
- All self-generated waste should be disposed of by individuals.
- 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 devices.

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Close working

There will be situations where it is not possible or safe for workers to distance themselves from each other by 2 metres. **In these situations, work should not be carried out.**

Where workers can distance themselves by 2 metres or more:

- Plan work to minimise interaction between workers. Minimise face to face contact. Keep groups of workers together and as small as possible to minimise the risk of transmission across the whole workforce e.g. maintain the same crew and shift pattern.
- Re-usable PPE, e.g. eye protection, protective gloves and respiratory equipment, should be thoroughly cleaned after use and not shared between workers.
- Single use PPE, e.g. dust masks and vinyl gloves, should be disposed of so that they cannot be re-used.
- 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 at all times. 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

Even very good, well-maintained clean sites will require enhanced cleaning procedures at this time, which should cover the following as a minimum:

- Taps and washing facilities.
- Toilet flush and seats.
- All door handles, locks and push plates.
- Handrails on stairs and in corridors.
- Lifts and hoist controls.
- Machinery and equipment controls (provide wipes in cab).
- Food preparation and eating surfaces.
- Telephone equipment.
- Keyboards, photocopiers and other office equipment.
- Increased rubbish collection.
- Reduce hot-desking if possible and enforce a clean desk policy.

First aid

- It is a requirement that all sites have first aid provision.
- Provide additional PPE for all first aiders – this should include face masks, eye protection, latex gloves and apron. Gloves, apron and masks should be disposed of after use and eye protection cleaned.