

Construction Sites COVID-19 Guidance

Site Operations/Safety

Dealing with illness on site

- Site operatives should be advised not 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 site for additional 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

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 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 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

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

Construction Sites COVID-19 Guidance

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 sanitizer where soap and water are not available
- Increase the cleaning regime of facilities and checks on soap and sanitizer levels
- Provide sufficient bins for the disposal of paper hand towels and regularly remove and dispose of them

Toilet facilities

- Restrict those using facilities at any one time
- Encourage hand washing before and after use
- Encourage cleaning regimes, to include door handles, locks and toilet flush
- Provide more bins for hand towels, and ensure regular removal and disposal

Changing facilities

- Introduce staggered start and finish times
- Enhance cleaning regimes
- 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

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
- 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
- All self-generated waste should be disposed of by individuals

Construction Sites COVID-19 Guidance

Close working

Close working should be avoided wherever possible.

However, some tasks cannot be completed safely by following the 2 metre rule. If these tasks are essential, then some basic rules should be followed:

- All skin to skin contact to be avoided by the correct use of clothing and PPE
- Plan work to minimize and close-proximity working
- All PPE should be personal, and not shared
- Use gloves, masks and eye protection, as a bare minimum
- Single use PPE should be disposed of so that it cannot be re-used
- Re-usable PPE should be thoroughly cleaned after use and not shared

To avoid close working generally, the following should be adopted:

- Non-essential work requiring close contact should not be carried out
- Use stairs rather than lifts or hoists. If not possible, reduce capacity
- Increase ventilation in enclosed spaces
- Regularly clean the inside of cabs, especially if different operators share machines
- Reduce/eliminate site meetings with the use of technology, or hold meetings outside

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