

Halton & St Helens VCA Covid-19 Workplace Risk Assessment

Covid-19 is a new illness that can affect your lungs and airways.

It is caused by a virus called Coronavirus. Symptoms can be mild, moderate, severe or fatal.

This **Risk Assessment** is for dealing with the current Covid-19 situation in the workplace. It is not likely to cover all scenarios and employees are asked to take reasonable steps in considering their own unique circumstances.

What are the hazards: Spread of Covid-19 Coronavirus

| Who might be harmed | Controls Required | Additional Controls |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 business | <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/ • Staff encouraged to protect the skin by applying emollient cream regularly • https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/emollients/ | <p>Employees 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, where possible. 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 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.gov.uk/coronavirus</p> |

- Gel sanitisers in any area where washing facilities not readily available

Cleaning
Frequently cleaning and disinfecting objects and surfaces that are touched regularly particularly in areas of high use such as door handles, light switches, reception area using appropriate cleaning products and methods.

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
<https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/news/covid-19-coronavirus>
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people>

Taking steps to review work schedules including start & finish times/shift patterns, working from home etc. to reduce number of workers on site at any one time. Also relocating workers to other tasks.

Redesigning processes to ensure social distancing in place.

Conference calls to be used instead of face to

Posters, leaflets and other materials are available for display.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19>

Checks will be carried out by line managers to ensure that the necessary procedures are being followed.

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.

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| | <p>face meetings.</p> <p>Ensuring sufficient rest breaks for staff.</p> <p><u>Wearing of Gloves</u> 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> <i>Public Health guidance on the use of PPE (personal protective equipment) to protect against COVID-19 relates to health care settings. In all other settings individuals are asked to observe social distancing measures and practice good hand hygiene behaviours</i></p> <p><u>Symptoms of Covid-19</u> If anyone becomes unwell with a new continuous cough or a high temperature in the workplace they will be sent home and advised to follow the stay at home guidance.</p> <p>Line managers will maintain regular contact with staff members during this time.</p> <p>If advised that a member of staff or public has developed Covid-19 and were recently on our</p> | <p>Staff to be reminded that wearing of gloves is not a substitute for good hand washing.</p> <p>Internal communication channels and cascading of messages through line managers will be carried out regularly to reassure and support employees in a changing situation.</p> <p>Line managers will offer support to staff who are affected by Coronavirus or has a family member affected.</p> |
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premises (including where a member of staff has visited other work place premises such as domestic premises), the management team 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.

<https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/>

Mental Health

Management will promote mental health & wellbeing awareness to 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/>
www.hseni.gov.uk/stress

Regular communication of mental health information and open door policy for those who need additional support.