



Post-coronavirus start-up guidance: Construction sites

This document has been prepared specifically to provide some additional guidance for reopening construction sites after the initial Covid-19 shutdown.

These guidelines do not override any existing policy conditions.

All applicable health & safety legislation and regulations remain fully in force, including but not limited to:

- Health & Safety at Work Act 1974.
- Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations 1999.
- Workplace (Health, Safety & Welfare) Regulations 1992.
- Construction (Design & Management) Regulations 2015.
- Fire Safety Regulatory Reform Order.

The fact that a business is deemed essential, or is permitted to operate, does not mean its legal obligations are in any way relaxed or reduced. Indeed, in the present climate the duties owed to employees and others are enhanced.

All activities must only be undertaken in line with the current guidance issued by HM Government.

Please click on the headings below for links to further information:

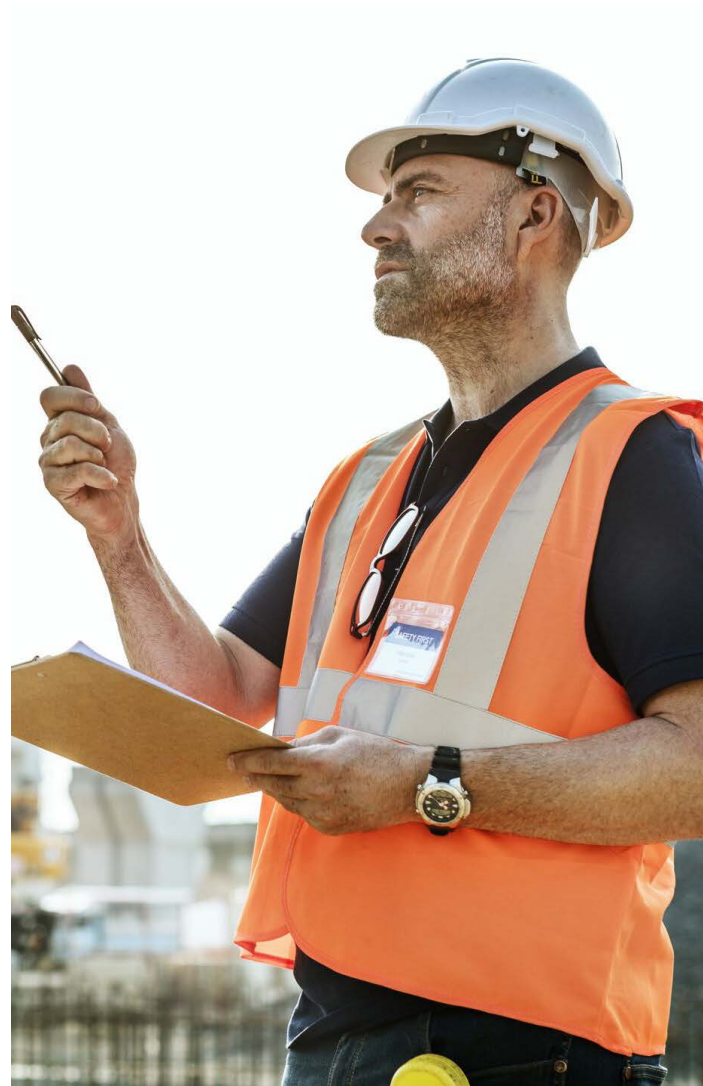
[Social Distancing in the Workplace Guidelines](#)

[HSE Coronavirus information](#)

[HSE Advice on Social Distancing](#)

[Working safely during Coronavirus](#)

[HSE Working safely during Coronavirus](#)





Coronavirus Response

Risk management measures

Where it is practical, and permitted by Government advice in the current situation, the following best practice risk management measures should be taken where possible:

Activities: First and foremost, employee safety is paramount. It is important that a review of your working activities is undertaken before restarting any work, as this will form part of your Covid-19 Compliance risk assessment. You must carry out a suitable and sufficient risk assessment - this means looking at working areas and activities to enable your employees to successfully distance themselves from colleagues and work safely. It may not be appropriate to carry out certain activities as you normally would, and / or you may need to consider supplying PPE equipment to certain employees. Please see the latest Government and HSE advice for updates on appropriate precautions.

Please remember that if some activities cannot be carried out safely, they should not be undertaken at all.

You must reinduct your employees to ensure that they understand new restrictions, new rules, and altered arrangements for using welfare facilities and you may need to operate out of hours and/or, introduce shift patterns, to manage safely the social distancing elements of the Covid-19 guidelines.

Document the following:

Assess: review all areas of work activity, look for contact points between employees and others, possibly any members of the public, delivery drivers and consider / re-assess if these can be managed within the current social distancing guidelines. Update your risk assessments to reflect any changes.

Train and inform: communicate with your employees about what the new changes may mean, ensure that employees fully understand, and above all document and record all training and information going forward.

Clean: review welfare arrangements and facilities provided, can social distancing be achieved in washrooms and dry canteen facilities? You may need to stagger the use of these facilities and you may need to supervise or control access and egress.

Consultation

Employers should consult with employees and trade unions about the return to the workplace. In the meantime staff should continue to work from home if they can. Employers should keep up to date with the latest government guidance to help them plan ahead.

When planning to return to the workplace, employers must:

- consult with staff and employee representatives, including any trade union representatives and health and safety officials
- consider the risks of anyone being harmed in the workplace and carry out a suitable and sufficient risk assessment
- make the workplace as safe as possible for staff, customers and other visitors

Some employees may be anxious about their safety when returning to the workplace. Employers and employees should talk about any concerns and try to resolve them together. It can also help to signpost staff to any health and wellbeing support that is available, for example occupational health or mental health services.



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You must consider and manage the following:

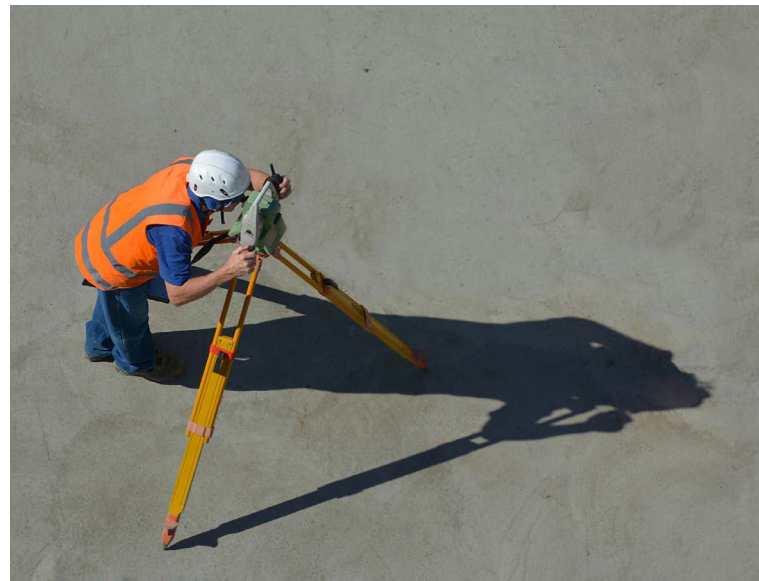
- Update your risk assessments and working procedures in respect of the Covid-19 amendment.
- Confirm that your employees have had training refreshed in respect of Covid-19 for risk assessments and method statements.
- Confirm that you have, and can supply/provide, the correct PPE where this is required for work-related activities.
- Ensure that all employees are symptom-free and have not been in contact within the last 14 days with someone who has had, or is suspected to have had, Covid-19, or someone who has been required to self-isolate with suspected Covid-19.
- In addition, anyone who is classed as a vulnerable person, through age, ill health condition, pregnancy, or who is a carer for someone who is vulnerable, should follow the current HM Government guidance.
- Inform your insurer that you are operational, and following specific guidance issued by HM Government and the HSE in respect of Covid-19.
- Confirm that all relevant insurance policies are still in force and the limits of indemnity remain as before the crisis.

PPE

- You must ensure that you have adequate supplies of PPE. Some items of PPE are in very short supply, particularly FFP Masks and certain types of gloves. Employees must not be put at risk because there is no PPE to wear for hazards in the workplace. Activities must not be undertaken if there is no PPE available.
- It is important that you review and check that you have an inventory of additional items of PPE in supply, including things like gloves, eye and face protection required for some operations involving grinding, welding and or handling chemicals etc where splashes could be a hazard.
- The HSE has also updated **guidance on fit testing face masks**, to avoid transmission during the coronavirus outbreak, via this [link](#).

Site access

- Make sure that site entry points are safe and that there is no visible deterioration in gates, turnstiles etc.
- Make sure vehicular traffic signs are still in place and adequate.
- Employees whose duty it is to control access to site will require specific knowledge update and instructions on site control, controlling tipper trucks etc onto site and that controls and scheduling of traffic and deliveries are managed.
- Visiting drivers need to be made aware of new site procedures and should always remain in their cab, unless instructed to do so, in this event social distancing measures must be maintained.
- Make sure banksman etc are still available, are fully trained and competent. NB it will be necessary to ensure they are briefed in managing increased delivery flows and traffic.
- On start-up there is likely to be increased traffic flows as deliveries of materials start to occur - it's important to schedule these so that you can control them, particularly if your site is restricted.
- Biometric log-in pads should be sanitised after each user, or other means of logging on/off site undertaken.





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Site offices

- Ensure cleaning and sanitisation steps are followed, as outlined in the General cleaning guidance.

This needs to extend to any biometric clocking on systems and id card swipe systems.

Welfare facilities

- Canteens and washing facilities need to be deep cleaned before first use, and a regular cleaning regime established to maintain a standard of cleanliness in line with guidelines.
- All third-party provision of services needs to be assessed, to ensure that they have reviewed their operational capability in respect of Covid-19, particularly if they are providing an on-site service such as catering.
- Make sure that there are always adequate supplies of hot water, towel and hand gels/soap etc.

Checking of works

- Condition of the works, whether it be a building, structure, housing site etc., must be subject to a formal inspection before the workforce can resume their working activities.
- Ensure that all temporary fire alarms systems are operational and resume routine fire alarm tests.
- Make sure you refresh induction training for the workforce, to ensure everyone is familiar with site safety rules and guidelines.

Scaffolding

- All scaffolding, ladders and access equipment must be inspected and certified safe for use before any employees can access it. Records of these inspections must be maintained.

Excavations

- Any open/shored excavations must be checked and inspected by a competent civil engineer, to ensure that the condition of the works is safe, and that the excavation or works are stable and not likely to collapse. Records and reports of inspections should be kept.

Plant and equipment checks

Items of fixed heavy plant such as excavators, cranes, dumper trucks and other items must be put through the m/f start-up checks. To do this it may be necessary to get the plant hirer or manufacturer/service engineer out to site, to ensure equipment is safe to use and to avoid any damage to plant after a prolonged period of non-use.





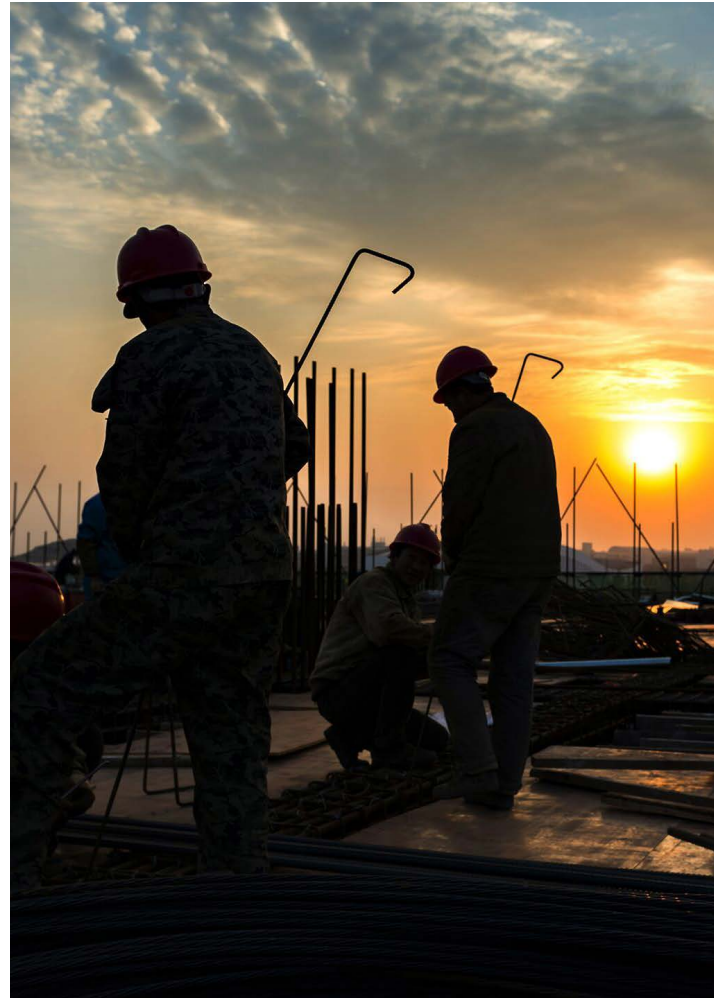
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Key personnel issues

- It is important to consider what key personnel are required for the business to operate both safely and legally - clearly some key personnel could still be absent through ill health recovery etc and this could impact start-up and recovery.
- Think carefully about who you need to operate your site normally - this would include the following:
 - » Site managers
 - » Trained First Aid trained personnel
 - » Trained banksmen for lifting and traffic management
 - » Trained machine/plant operators
 - » Trained forklift truck operators
 - » Maintenance electricians
 - » Supervisory staff
 - » Fire wardens
 - » Plant engineers
 - » Food safety / hygiene trained personnel
- The list is not exhaustive, but merely to consider who may need to be deployed post-restrictions start-up.

Operational procedures, refresh induction and toolbox talks

- Given that normal site operations have been suspended for some time due to the Covid-19 restrictions, it is appropriate to ensure that, where practical, key operational rules and procedures are refreshed once employees return to work. Toolbox talks may need to be held at a regular frequency to ensure employees are aware of new arrangements and procedures.
- Key areas to think about will be:
 - » Fire alarm testing and associated procedures.
 - » Fire points and the provision of portable fire extinguishers & hose reels.
 - » Premises security issues.
 - » General site safety rules.
 - » Manual handling and lifting.
 - » Pedestrian and vehicular interfaces.
 - » Managing the public.
 - » Personal safety and lone working practices.
- In line with the Government advice, be aware that increased cycle use is likely for both employees and members of the public. You must ensure that traffic management arrangements take account of this.





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Cleaning - general guidance applicable to all locations

- Think about the layout of your site. You should only consider cleaning surfaces yourself if you have the protective equipment and materials to hand and these are readily available. You may wish to use a service delivery option to do this work ahead of opening.
- Waste cleaning materials such as wipes cloths, paper towels, gloves, masks etc need to be double bagged and removed from site as soon as possible, they must not be allowed to build up. In some cases, they may have to be treated as low-level clinical waste and may require special pick-up waste disposal services to be arranged.
- Common and shared areas need to be managed, but it is important that you consult with subcontractors and third- parties regarding cleaning and sanitising of these areas.
- Prepare a schedule of cleaning steps covering the following:
 - » Access and egress routes - what could anyone have touched?
 - » Turnstiles and gates used for entry and egress need to be sanitised.
 - » Always work from clean to dirty areas, to avoid spreading any contamination.
 - » Door handles, letterboxes, finger plates, keypads, glass surfaces and floors - these are just a few areas but may well differ from premises to premises.
 - » Washrooms, WCs, and shower rooms should be subjected to a deep clean, especially if they are/have been available for public use.
 - » Phones, PC's, keyboards, desks and vending machines.
 - » Kitchen areas, taps, fridges.
 - » Wear protective gloves and thoroughly sanitise door handles, keypads and hard surfaces glass panels, mirrors etc, that people may have touched.
 - » Although the Covid-19 virus cannot survive long on hard surfaces it is advised these should be cleaned/sanitised thoroughly.
 - » Use a proprietary sanitiser/wipes where possible to clean before you open to employees and/or the general public.

Managing Covid-19 anxiety

- Without doubt many employees may feel anxious about travelling and returning to work considering the Covid-19 outbreak, and the issues associated with this will be around for some time to come. It is important that employers take due consideration of this, as this could impact the successful operation of your business.
- This [link](#) provides some guidance on anxiety around Covid-19 via the NHS.



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Construction Leadership Council Guidance

- Construction Leadership Council has issued Version 4 of Guidance relating to practical operations on construction sites during the Covid-19 crisis, which the main contractor must consider and is responsible for implementing when restarting and managing sites.
- The latest version of this can be accessed via this [link](#)
- This document provides some good practical guidance on a range of issues.

Guidance for workers video

Langley, supported by the Construction Industry Council, has produced a short video that demonstrates safe and responsible guidance for workers on construction sites operating during the Covid-19 pandemic, to ensure the protection of the workforce and minimise the risk of spread of infection.

This guidance advises how consistent measures on sites of all sizes can be responsibly and safely undertaken, with adherence to the government's recommendations on social distancing.

The latest version of this can be accessed via this [link](#).

