

Risk Assessment Covid-19 Virus Infection Control NEWCASTLE						
<p>Document Reference: Document Reference: The Government has provided guidance for businesses and employees in understanding how to work safely during the COVID-19 pandemic. It has advised all businesses should carry out a risk assessment for returning to work and what controls could be implemented to mitigate the identified risks. https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/offices-and-contact-centres (11th May 2020)</p> <p>Assessor: Lisa Frere</p> <p>Date: 31.07.2020</p>						
Hazards identified	Probability of event (without controls) (A)	Severity of event (without controls) (B)	Probability of event (following implementation of controls) ©	Severity of event (following implementation of controls) (D)	Risk Rating Pre controls A x B	Risk Rating Post controls C x D
Exposure to infected person or contaminated surface	5	4	2	4	20	8
Colleague developing symptoms (cough /fever/shortness of breath) prior to attending work	4	4	4	2	16	8
Colleague developing symptoms (cough /fever/shortness of breath) at work	4	4	4	3	16	12
Exposure to infection of 'clinically extremely vulnerable' employee	4	5	1	5	20	5
A negative mental or physical impact on colleagues working from home	3	3	3	2	9	6

		Severity				
Probability		Trivial 1	Minor 2	7-day 3	Major 4	Fatal 5
	Very likely 5	5	10	15	20	25
	Probably 4	4	8	12	16	20
	Possible 3	3	6	9	12	15
	Remote 2	2	4	6	8	10
	Improbable 1	1	2	3	4	5

Level of risk	Action and timescale
HIGH	You should not start work until the risk has been reduced. You may have to set aside considerable resources to reduce the risk. If the risk involves work in progress, you should take urgent action. If it is not possible to reduce the risk even with unlimited resources, you must stop all work.
MEDIUM	You must try to reduce the risk but should carefully measure the cost of prevention. You should use measures to reduce the risk within a defined time period. If the medium risk is associated with extremely harmful consequences you may need to carry out another assessment to identify more precisely the likelihood of harm. This will help you decide whether you need to use improved control measures.
LOW	You don't need to take action or keep documentary records. Monitoring is necessary to make sure that the controls are still effective.

HARM: Infection with Covid-19

PERSONS AT RISK: Colleagues, Contractors and Visitors

CONTROLS:

Exposure to an Infected Person or contaminated surface

Current government guidelines to be followed.

Who should go to work

- The Government have published a Roadmap out of Lockdown which will gradually ease current lockdown measures in a controlled way throughout March 2021 to June 2021. The current government guidance to work from home if you can, is still in place. All colleagues who can work from home should continue to do so and be provided with suitable arrangements for homeworking.
- Where colleagues are required to be onsite we will manage occupancy levels to enable social distancing, including the use of rotational working.
- Colleagues who fall into a clinically extremely vulnerable category are no longer required to shield from 31st March 2021 and can return to work if they are unable to work from home..

Workplace and Environment

- We have worked with Tesco Bank Facilities to ensure a collaborative and co-ordinated approach has been taken to managing social distancing in communal building areas:-
 - ✓ one way flow to building using the main staircase for upward travel and the rear staircase for downwards travel.
 - ✓ Social distancing signage throughout building
 - ✓ One person at a time in the lifts
 - ✓ Lifts available for any colleague with mobility issues or disabilities to use at all times.
- Implement social distancing on office floor using a one-way flow and maintaining a 2 metre distance between individuals wherever possible. Supported by floor signage and poster reminders.
- Approved desk plan to ensure occupied workstations are a minimum of 2 metres apart.
- Any desks between designated workstations to be put out of use and clearly marked
- No hot desking.
- If desk is shared, then desk to be thoroughly cleaned before each use by a new colleague.
- Breakout areas are now in use, limited to one person per table. Usage is monitored to ensure compliance.
- Limits to number of people using meeting rooms, clear signage to indicate maximum occupancy and clear identification of which seats to use to maintain social distancing.
- The Q8 canteen remains open for food purchases with a social distancing queuing system in place. Contactless payment only accepted. The seating area has been put out of use and all food and drinks must be consumed at desk.

Hygiene and Employee Guidelines

- Good hygiene practices and regular hand washing to be encouraged and maintained, using signage to reinforce this message.
- Provide alcohol disinfectant gel/wipes where suitable handwashing is not available using designated hygiene stations.

- Toilet cubicles and washbasins to be put out of use, if considered necessary to encourage social distancing and limit number of colleagues using at any one time.
- Paper towels available for hand washing. .
- Limit contact with any surfaces, equipment or materials when on site, no equipment materials to be shared with other colleagues.
- Provide adequate supply of cleaning and disinfectant materials for colleagues to clean their desk areas and clean down of work surfaces, keyboards, telephone etc at start and end of each working shift.
- Enhanced cleaning and regular touch point cleaning to be carried out throughout the day. Tesco Bank facilities have contracted an additional 81 hours of cleaning per week.
- Entry barriers remain in use with enhanced touchpoint cleaning

Travel and Commuting

- Liaise with Tesco Bank facilities regarding use of Q8 and Q10 parking facilities.
- Advise colleagues to travel to site in isolation either walking, cycling or driving.
- Colleagues advised not to car share unless it is with members of their own household
- Colleagues travelling using public transport will be supplied with facemasks to use on their journeys.
- Restrict visits to other sites to essential circumstances only.
- Where visits to other sites are deemed necessary, site controls for destination should be obtained. If no adequate controls are in place then a dynamic risk assessment is required.
- Where visits to other sites are necessary it should be requested that only one person from the site attends to limit exposure. Social distancing should be maintained at all times.
- No business travel to be undertaken until further notice.

Meeting and Events

- Where possible meetings should be conducted remotely using technology such as MS Teams or Zoom.
- Use remote working tools to avoid person to person meetings.
- Advise colleagues to avoid sharing pens or other materials.
- No travel or attendance at external events until further notice.

Visitors to site

- Limit visits to TU office to essential persons only, for example emergency repairs or routine maintenance.

Communication

- We will provide clear guidance on social distancing and hygiene to people on arrival, for example, office signage or visual aids and before arrival, for example, by phone, on the website or by email.
- Office guidelines will be circulated to colleagues returning to the office in the form of a return to work pack.
- Series of campaigns to reinforce guidance on social distancing, hygiene etc.

Colleague developing symptoms (cough /fever/shortness of breath) prior to attending work

- Colleague(s) with any symptoms should inform their Line Manager and HR Business Partner immediately and practice self-isolation.
- Current Government guidance to be followed.
- Procedure communicated to all staff.

Colleague developing symptoms (cough /fever/shortness of breath) at work

- Current Government guidance to be followed,
- Any colleague(s) who develops symptoms of Coronavirus should be sent home and stay at home for seven days from the onset of symptoms.
- If the colleague lives in a household where someone else is unwell with symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) then they must stay at home in line with the [stay at home guidance](#).
- Follow the government guidelines for [cleaning in a non-healthcare setting](#).
- Colleagues Line Manager and HR Business Partner to be notified immediately

Exposure to infection of ‘clinically extremely vulnerable’

- Current Government guidance to be followed
- Shielding for those identified as “clinically extremely vulnerable” ended on 31st March 2021 and colleagues in this category can return to work if they can’t work from home.

A negative mental or physical impact on colleagues working from home

- Monitor the wellbeing of people who are working from home and help them stay connected to the rest of the workforce
- Provide equipment for people to work at home safely and effectively, for example, remote access to work systems.
- Access to support network including MHFA, Employee Assistance Programme and Right Steps.

Personal Protective Equipment Requirements:

In line with Tesco Bank and with the interests of colleagues' health in mind, from Monday 2 November 2020 we ask that colleagues in our Newcastle office wear a face covering in all areas of the building, except when seated at their own desk.

Colleagues should provide their own face coverings, however there will be spare disposable face masks available upon request at reception should a colleague forget to bring one.

Face masks provided to colleagues using public transport including means of disposal at office entrance.

Rubber gloves and plastic aprons available for cleaning.

Additional Assessments Required:

none

Have the controls implemented reduced the risk to an acceptable level?

Yes

(If no, seek guidance from Health and Safety Competent person)

Emergency Procedures:

Trained First Aiders and Fire Wardens on site.

If there is an emergency evacuation of the office/building social distancing will not be able to be maintained. Fire Wardens/Building Manager to ensure social distancing is maintained at meeting points and re-entering the building. Advise colleagues to wash hands thoroughly/use hygiene stations.

Monitoring Procedures:

Review effectiveness of all measures and report back to TU Executive Committee.

Other Items:

none

Date for Review:

21.06.2021

Name of Assessor:

Lisa Frere

Assessor Signature:



Date:

01.04.2021

Date approved by H&S Committee:

01.04.2021

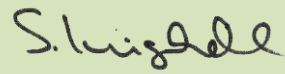
Date approved by Staff Council:

01.04.2021

Approved by CEO Steve Kingshott:
*Accountable for ensuring an adequate process
for following and adhering to government
guidance.*

Signed:

Date Approved:



01.04.2021