

## COVID-19: RISK ASSESSMENT



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### Document Updates:

**Issue Date: 23 May 2020**

**Last updated: 21 December 2020**

Date	Version	Update	Section
08/07/2020	5	Occupancy numbers increased to the estimated capacity of 400 Occupants to still comply with social distancing measures.	Risk assessment summary Page 3
08/07/2020	5	Minimum separation distance of 2m, or 1m with risk mitigation where 2m is not viable is acceptable, between people in the office.	Mitigating Actions Page 5 and Throughout Assessment.
08/07/2020	5	Update of Emergency Plans to include COVID 19 guidance especially around social distancing	Accidents and Incidents Page 14
08/07/2020	5	Included guidance in the event of a COVID -19 lockdown	Outbreaks and Local lockdowns Page 16
08/07/2020	5	Additional guidance in the event of a COVID – 19 outbreak – including nomination of Single point of contact (SPOC)	Outbreaks and Local lockdowns Page 16
14/07/2020	6	Minimising contact in communal areas – Stairs by making the main stairs primary up and down and ensuring signage is reminding colleagues of SD.	Movement around the building Page 8
14/07/2020	6	Addition of How many colleagues could be harmed in the main assessment	Risk Assessment Summary page 4 and Page 8
02/09/2020	7	Updated guidance to mandate the collection of Test and Trace data	Risk Assessment Page 6
15/10/2020	8	Updated guidance to reflect launch of Local COVID Alert Levels	Risk Assessment Summary Page 3

09/10/2020	9	Updated to reflect new national guidance to stay at home where possible	Risk Assessment page 16
09/10/2020	9	Meeting Rooms to close as per national guidance	Risk Assessment page 10/11
09/10/2020	9	Canteen Facilities changed as per national guidance	Risk Assessment page 12/13
09/10/2020	9	Social Distancing Breach Log implementation	Risk assessment Page 8
02/12/2020	10	Update to the guidance after lockdown ends – Meeting rooms	Risk Assessment page 11
02/12/2020	10	Update to guidance after lockdown ends – Canteen facilities	Risk Assessment page 12
02/12/2020	10	Update to guidance after lockdown ends – workplaces (Christmas plans)	Risk Assessment page 10
21/12/2020	11	Update to guidance for Tier 4 Restrictions – Meeting Rooms	Risk Assessment page 11
21/12/2020	11	Update to guidance for Tier 4 Restrictions – Canteen facilities	Risk Assessment page 12

## COVID-19: RISK ASSESSMENT

This Risk Assessment has been prepared in response to the emerging risks associated with the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. It assesses the risks associated with COVID-19 in a large open plan office with minimal staff within it. It is vital that a record of risk assessments is maintained.

This document has been produced to comply with all relevant Health and Safety legislation and current Government rules and guidance specifically related to COVID-19.

The Site assessed within this document is Conquest House, 32-34 Collington Avenue, Bexhill on Sea. The assessment is based on an occupancy level of the building of a maximum of 400 colleagues, including support staff, at any one time.

As we learn more about the virus and working practices change, we will reassess risks, review procedures and update recorded assessments as necessary. Any such reassessment and subsequent review should include all relevant employees, who should also be informed of resulting changes.

Any colleague requiring further guidance should contact the Health and Safety Advisor ([Healthandsafety @hastingsdirect.com](mailto:Healthandsafety@hastingsdirect.com)).

### COVID-19

#### Primary Symptoms:

- High temperature; and
- New, continuous cough.
- Loss of taste or Sense of smell.

#### Human Health Risk:

Mild to severe illness, and death. Older adults, or those with underlying medical conditions seem to be at a higher risk of developing more serious complications from Covid-19 illness.

#### Transmission:

Being a respiratory virus, it is transmitted through respiratory droplets, with person-to-person contact appearing to be the main method of transmission. The virus can also survive on contaminated surfaces, possibly for up to several days.

Both symptomatic and asymptomatic transmission (when a person is displaying no symptoms) occurs.

#### Vaccination:

There are no vaccines available as yet.

## PRIMARY SOURCES FOR INFORMATION

1. Dept of Health and Social Care:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-health-and-social-care>

2. Public Health Agency England:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

3. Health and Safety Executive:

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/news/coronavirus.htm>

4. Gov.uk:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

5. Hastings Direct Colleague Intranet – Tapestry:

<http://tapestry/communication/Pages/Coronavirus-whatyouneedtoknow.aspx>

## MITIGATING ACTIONS

The key principles underpinning the mitigating actions are as follows:

1. To protect the health of colleagues and their dependants.
2. To minimise risk to visitors, contractors and suppliers.
3. To maintain operational capability and capacity, as far as is practicable.

MITIGATION	RATIONALE
<b>Personal Responsibilities</b>	
Practice good personal hygiene including hand washing (wash your hands with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds).	<i>To minimise risk of infection, to self and others.</i>
Practice good office hygiene	<i>To minimise risk of infection, to self and others.</i>
<b>Social Distancing Measures / Minimisation of Person to Person Contact</b>	
Immediate isolation of symptomatic persons – Track and Trace Process	<i>To remove potential source of infection.</i>
Home working	<i>To remove staff from risk of infection in the office.</i>
Avoidance / suspension of in-person meetings.	<i>To avoid person to person contact.</i>
Adoption of teleconferencing as an alternative to in-person meetings.	<i>To avoid person to person contact.</i>
Cancellation of non-essential travel	<i>To avoid risk of infection from outside sources.</i>
Minimum separation distance of 2m, or 1m with risk mitigation where 2m is not viable is acceptable, between people in the office.	<i>To include all areas, for example at workstations, staircases, meeting rooms, toilets, kitchens etc.</i>
<b>Premises</b>	
Frequently cleaning and disinfecting of 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.	<i>To reduce risk of infection from infected surfaces.</i>
Covid-19 and Hygiene signage on office entry points, and on display internally.	<i>To reduce risk of infection.</i>

Review and amend evacuation and building entry/exit procedures.

*To remove risk of infection and minimise person to person contact.*

Activity & Hazard	Subject / Person at Risk of harm		Pre Control Risk Rating			Activity control measures including Information and Training	Post Control Risk Rating			Overall Assessment / Evaluation Acceptable		Effectiveness Review Date Assessment Completed 01/06/2020		
	Hazard	Who might Be harmed	How Many Might be Harmed	High	Med		Low	Current & Additional Precautions	High	Med	Low	8-16	1-6	Date Of Review
<b>Spread of COVID 19</b>	Colleagues	Max of 400 Colleagues in the building at any one time	X			<p><b>Social Distancing within the Workplace:</b></p> <p>We have implemented a social distancing breach log for all SD champions to report any colleagues that break the protocols / processes that have been put in place to ensure the safety and wellbeing of others. This is reported weekly to the Executive Committee to follow up.</p>		X					21.12.2020	02.01.2021
	Visitors													
	Contractors													
	Vulnerable Groups including Elderly, Pregnant and those with underlying conditions - Anyone within this category will not be allowed into the building until further notice.													
	Anyone else who physically comes in					<p><b>Travelling to and from Work:</b></p> <p>Staggered shift times to reduce congestion at entry and exit points from the building whilst keeping to social distancing rules.</p> <p>Adequate parking for Vehicles and Bicycles to reduce colleagues having to use public transport.</p> <p>As colleagues enter the building, they will be temperature checked via a thermal camera, positioned at the entrance and standing behind a Perspex screen. The camera will detect any temperature and highlight anyone that has a temperature above 38°C. If they then re-test again above this temperature, the colleague will be asked to leave the building, return home and</p>								



	contact in relation to our business.					<p>follow the self-isolation guidelines. The names will be sent to HR and their Line Managers.</p> <p>One way flow into and out of the building minimising any contact – This will be assisted with Posters, Floor marking and Maps that will be placed at the entrance / exits and shown to all colleagues via Internal Communications and Intranet. It will also be monitored by on-site security team as colleagues come and go.</p> <p>QR Code Posters downloaded from NHS App and on display in the Reception area as part of the Gov Track and Trace system.</p> <p><b>Movement around the Building:</b></p> <p>Limit movement and discourage any non-essential trips around the building by closing off or restricting use in areas or floors not in use, one way flows, close off all meeting rooms, set up of teams of those within the office with designated toilet facilities, sanitising / cleaning stations.</p> <p>Reduce the number of colleagues allowed within lifts with posters, floor marking and communications.</p> <p>A maximum of 1 occupant per lift</p> <p>NB. Need to ensure that any disabled staff may not be able to adhere to the one-way flow and need access to areas closed off or the lifts.</p> <p>The two main stairs as <b>primary up</b> and <b>primary down</b>, also added suitable signage asking colleagues to observe social distancing not to pass on the stairs, and to step aside at the landing to allow colleagues to pass.</p>						21.12.2020	02.01.2021
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				X	<p><b>Workstations / Places:</b></p> <p>Colleagues are seated so that they are spaced out across the office leaving empty desks adjacent and opposite.</p> <p>Colleagues will be assigned into working teams to limit contact with others. Temporary workstations will be assigned and not shared i.e. No hot desking as this will reduce the amount of contact.</p> <p>Colleague's workstations will be arranged to prevent anyone from working face to face.</p> <p>Monitoring of occupancy levels taking place to enable colleague to maintain social distancing.</p> <p>Workspace is cleaned daily, this includes thorough wipe down of the monitors, desk, phones, keyboards and mice.</p> <p>Limit use of contact surfaces such as printers and whiteboards and ensure regular sanitising if used - Do we look to restrict printing to essential colleagues only.</p> <p>Extra provisions for colleagues to clean as they go with Anti-bac wipes are available. This includes the colleagues wiping their own headsets.</p> <p>Training &amp; induction: Currently no training taking place on Site. Using remote solutions such as teleconferencing, skype and e-learning.</p> <p>Relocated from training rooms to the main floors enabling colleagues to maintain social distancing.</p> <p><b>As of 02.12.2020</b> - No decorations on desks or Team decorations. Instead we'll buy pre-decorated trees and <b>Property Services</b> will put them up. Christmas cards to be stuck on white boards only, not displayed on window ledges desks etc. – keep</p>			X		X	21.12.2020	02.01.2021
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				X	<p>surfaces clear and easy to clean. No food on empty desks, instead we have provided tables. All food packaged.</p> <p><b>Meeting Rooms:</b></p> <p>Using remote working tools to avoid in-person meetings. As of 7<sup>th</sup> September some rooms will be reopened. Extra Precautions as follows:          Extra chairs will be removed.          Green stickers placed on the tables to show where they should sit.          Notices on the doors.          Laminated 'rules' on the table.          Antibac tub of wipes on the table          Bin placed in every room          windows open at all times          AC (if they have one) on at all times          Sticker on back of door- if you have used this room, please wipe down all hard surfaces          Rooms are cleaned daily.</p> <p><b>As of 09.11.2020</b> All meeting rooms to be closed as per national lockdown guidelines and will be opened once lifted.</p> <p><b>As of 02.12.2020</b> Meeting rooms to be opened again however limited to occupancy levels and use of an hour at a time to allow for ventilation.</p> <p><b>As of 21.12.2020</b> - All meeting rooms to be closed as per Tier 4 restriction guidelines and will be opened once lifted.</p>			X		X	21.12.2020	02.01.2021
				X	<p><b>Staff restaurant:</b></p> <p>Canteen facilities :</p> <p>No cash is being handled. All food and drink is currently being provided free of charge – This has now ceased bar the hot drinks.</p> <p>All seating has been placed for SD.</p>			X		X	21.12.2020	02.01.2021





			X		<p>Whiteboards etc.</p> <p>The list is not exhaustive, with additional items being added if required;</p> <p>We have recruited additional cleaning resource to assist with touch point and desk cleaning.</p> <p><b>Track and Trace Process:</b></p> <p>Where we have colleagues that have developed symptoms in the office, they are led by a Line Leader or Social Distancing Champion to the designated meeting room to contact 119 and await further instruction, The Leader or Champion will then contact Property services so they can ensure that their workstations are deep cleaned within 30 mins of contact. We also then request our cleaners to thoroughly deep/hygiene infection control clean the whole office area. The colleague is then safely led out of the building to allow them to go home.</p> <p><b>Air:</b></p> <p>We regularly check and monitor air quality to ensure that the working environment is safe and that CO2, dust and microbiological levels are within safe levels. These are all found to be within safe levels across the building.</p> <p>Although Air Conditioning is in use, we also circulate fresh air to the main office areas via the primary air pump. In addition, the majority of the office windows can also be opened to provide air flow and we are routinely ventilating the offices.</p> <p>Cleaning before reopening areas of the Building:</p>			X	X	21.12.2020	02.01.2021
				X				X	X	21.12.2020	02.01.2021

			X		<p>Assess the areas closed off and carry out a clean of the area and ensure sanitiser stations are set up.</p> <p>Keeping the areas clean:</p> <p>Increase frequency of cleaning of workstations between use and of touchpoint areas (See above) to ensure any contact is kept to a minimum.</p> <p>Ensure adequate disposal of waste at the end of each shift and No belongings to be kept in the office spaces in between use.</p> <p><b>Hygiene:</b></p> <p>Posters and signage in place in all washing facilities. Regular communication being sent out to remind all colleagues about maintaining personal hygiene.</p> <p>Increased frequency of cleaning of toilet facilities and signage confirming usage.</p> <p>Toilets split into zones so that only small groups of colleagues using them from the same teams.</p> <p>Increased frequency of bin changes and cleaning of the bins. Additional provision of paper towels in the hand washing areas for those that do not wish to use hand dryers.</p> <p>Ensure those colleagues using the shower facilities notify Property Services that they have been used so that they are cleaned out for the next use.</p> <p><b>Work From Home:</b></p> <p>Almost all colleagues now WFH. Daily occupancy reduced by c.1200 w/c 09/03/20 to c.26 w/c 11/05/2020 and building currently closed to majority of staff except for facilities &amp; Security and some essential services such as Post Room, IT</p>			X		X	21.12.2020	02.01.2021
				X				X		X	21.12.2020	02.01.2021





Fire & First Aid	Colleagues Visitors Contractors Vulnerable Groups including Elderly, Pregnant and those with underlying conditions – Anyone within this category will not be	Max of 400 Colleagues in the building at any one time	X		<p>communications. There are also pages on the wellbeing of colleagues.</p> <p>We have launched a number of temporary policies that are available for all colleagues via email and intranet, these include working from home, Data security &amp; social media, recruitment, travel, holiday and additional specific guidelines around self-isolation, vulnerable colleagues including those over 70, pregnant or those who are carers or have children.</p> <p>Prior to any return to the office any new processes and training will be rolled out via emails, intranet and e-learning. Additional communications will be via posters and signage.</p> <p><b>Accidents and Incidents:</b></p> <p>In an emergency i.e. accident or fire colleagues do not have to stay 2m apart if it is unsafe for them to do so i.e. congested stairwell when trying to maintain 2m distance.</p> <p>Any colleagues involved in the provision of assistance i.e. first aid, will need to pay particular attention to sanitisation measures immediately afterwards including washing of hands.</p> <p>Fire Wardens and First Aiders: Both are being asked to sign in daily so we can quickly identify office areas where cover is light.</p> <p>Any shortages highlighted by this we have the provision to assign online training to train additional colleagues in Fire Warden and Awareness.</p> <p>Update the Emergency Plan to include COVID 19</p>			X		X	21.12.2020	02.01.2021
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Visitors and Contractors	<p>allowed into the building until further notice.</p> <p>Anyone else who physically comes in contact in relation to our business</p>			X	<p>guidelines especially around social distancing and hygiene.</p> <p>Addition of disposable face coverings to all first aid boxes.</p> <p><b>Visitors &amp; Contractors:</b></p> <p>All colleagues have been advised not to travel to any other site.</p> <p>We have limited all contractors to essential business requirements only for Reactive H&amp;S related works and Statutory PPMs. This is limited to the following security, IT, building maintenance, cleaning and lifesaving systems (Fire alarms etc.)</p> <p>Any visitors to the building are now infrequent due to the lockdown. However there is a sanitising station along with notices at reception and there are also barrier / screen along with floor markings in place for colleagues and visitors to maintain social distancing.</p> <p>Seating in the Reception area is being reduced to minimise the number of visitors in the building waiting whilst being able to maintain social distancing.</p> <p>Records being maintained by security of visitors / contractors to minimise contact by sharing of pens / paper.</p> <p>Security team wear gloves so minimising contact when handling passes.</p> <p>Reconfiguring of entrances and exits to minimise contact with colleagues. This will be one entrance in and one exit out of the building and a one way</p>			X		X	21.12.2020	02.01.2021
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			X		<p>handwashing for those handling goods and hand sanitiser for when this is not possible.</p> <p><b>Outbreak and Local Lockdowns:</b></p> <p>The site must follow all instructions from the local authorities in the event of any new local restrictions.</p> <p>If there is more than one case of COVID-19 associated with your workplace, you should contact your local PHE health protection team to report the suspected outbreak. Find your local PHE health protection team.</p> <p>If the local PHE health protection team declares an outbreak, we will be asked to record details of symptomatic staff and assist with identifying contacts. We ensure all employment records are up to date. We will be provided with information about the outbreak management process, which will help you to implement control measures, assist with communications to staff, and reinforce prevention messages.</p> <p>As part of this risk assessment, we have an up to date pandemic plan in case there is a COVID-19 outbreak. This plan should nominate a single point of contact (SPOC) where possible who should lead on contacting local Public Health teams.</p> <p>The SPOC for Conquest House is Zoe Turner, Health and Safety Adviser.</p> <p>PHE Surrey and Sussex Health Protection Team (South East), County Hall, Chart Way, Horsham, RH12 1XA</p>			X		X	21.12.2020	02.01.2021
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<b>RISK ASSESSMENT MATRIX</b>			<b>LIKELIHOOD</b>			
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
			<b>Negligible</b>	<b>Remote</b>	<b>Possible</b>	<b>Probable</b>
<b>S E V E R I T Y</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Minor</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
	<b>2</b>	<b>Lost Time</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>
	<b>3</b>	<b>Major RIDDOR</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>12</b>
	<b>4</b>	<b>Fatality</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Key: 1-2 Low: 3-6 Medium: 8-16 High</b>						

Assessed by	Zoe Turner	Position	Health & Safety Advisor	Risk Rating
Issue Date	08.07.2020	Review Date	09.11.2020	High
Review Date	21.12.2020	Next Review Date	02.01.2021	