

### Introduction

As part of the 'delay' phase of the Governments action plan to restrict the spread of COVID-19 across the UK, further measures have now been announced to delay the peak of the epidemic and in advance of an anticipated exponential growth in the numbers of cases of individuals becoming infected. Such a peak would be expected to impact on the elderly and vulnerable and put pressure on an already overstretched public health service.

In an attempt to counter this, Government has implemented steps to restrict social movements across the general population. Whilst measures are more severe for those who may display any of the expected symptoms, even those that remain fit and well are being asked to consider their wider social contacts.

### Current Status

The advice from Government is as follows:

- Where any individual member of the household displays any of the two symptoms of COVID-19 all members of the household should self isolate for 14 days:
  - *During this time all social contact should be stopped, however where this is not possible i.e. where it is not possible to get help to purchase food or essential supplies social contact should be restricted as much as possible.*
- Members of the public who are not demonstrating either of the specified symptoms should also be seeking to stop any non-essential contacts:
  - *People should work from home where possible and should avoid pubs, clubs, theatres and other social venues.*

### Advice to Members

In all cases no firm time scales have been announced in connection with measures announced to restrict social contact. However these are expected to last for months rather than weeks. It is unhelpful that Government has not been more directional with regards to restrictions set on visits to social venues, including pubs.

On this basis it should be anticipated that some members of the general public may continue to visit and the following advice may be helpful in order that companies can satisfy their duty of care both to staff and the public and until such time as more definitive instructions to affected businesses from Government are provided:

#### 1. Personal Hygiene and Protection:

- All staff should be aware of the two main symptoms of COVID-19:
  - *A new, continuous cough (coughing repeatedly) and, or fever*
  - *Fever*
- Companies may wish to consider measures i.e. via signs or posters to deter any members of the public who feel unwell or have signs of seasonal cold or flu to leave the premises and to reiterate the Government advice on self-isolation.

- Staff should wash their hands either with soap and water or hand sanitiser at the start and end of each shift and then at least at 30 minute intervals.
  - *Where possible visible hand washing practice reinforces official advice.*
- The greatest risk of transmission is via contact with infected individuals however staff may wish to consider use of gloves when serving customers and in particular handling of money.
  - *Cashless payment systems may be considered where this is possible*
- Gloves should be worn to handle used glassware and tableware during collection and washing.
  - *Used glassware and tableware should be loaded directly into a dishwasher or left soaking in an appropriate cleaning solution prior to washing*
  - *Use of disposable glassware during this period may be considered*
- Staff should undertake regular, constant cleaning on site and in particular high traffic areas and/or things that are regularly touched: bar top, tables, door handles, telephones, touch screens etc.
- Where possible, make available at the bar or point of service alcohol hand sanitiser

### **3. Cleaning of Premises:**

The broader advice for the public where they may be experiencing any of the characterising symptoms of COVID-19 is to self manage the progress of any related illness during self-isolation. However those who cannot self manage and/or where their condition escalates seek further advice through NHS 111. Testing is still being undertaken where individuals require hospitalisation and PHE will continue to trace contacts with infected individuals as a consequence.

Where businesses may suspect someone with COVID-19 has visited their premises, or where they are contacted by their local health protection team, who may issue further advice, The following guidance on cleaning in non-healthcare settings is taken from office advice issued by PHE<sup>1</sup>.

- Under usual circumstances, the amount of infectious virus on any contaminated surfaces is likely to have decreased significantly by 72 hours. If possible, clean all affected areas after this period has elapsed.
- In most cases the only PPE required is disposable gloves and apron
- The Local Health Protection Team will advise where higher levels of contamination may be present:
  - Where unwell individuals may have slept i.e. hotel room
  - Where there is visible contamination with bodily fluids
- Public areas where someone with COVID-19 has spent minimal time may continue to be cleaned as usual:
  - All surfaces, including floors, that can be touched or handled must be cleaned and disinfected
  - Disposable cleaning materials should be used including paper towels and disposable mop heads
  - For hard surfaces, use disinfectant containing 1000ppm of chlorine (bleach) either as part of a combined detergent disinfectant solution or as a standalone disinfectant following cleaning with a household detergent:

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings>

- 20ml household bleach + 1 litre water = approximately 1000ppm chlorine solution
- Steam cleaning should be used for upholstered or soft furnishings.
- All cleaning waste should be secured in a tied plastic rubbish bag and then re-bagged and tied again
  - Do not store waste prior to disposal unsupervised or in communal waste areas
  - For individuals who have tested positive, waste should be held for 72hrs before disposal as normal
- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water after cleaning and removal of PPE

## **2. Social Distancing:**

The advice from Government is that the greatest risk of transmission is via contact with individuals who are carrying COVID-19 rather than via contact with contaminated surfaces. Whilst not a guarantee, the following may be considered as examples of ways to maintain distance between customers when on premises:

- Consider introducing restrictions on maximum customer numbers
- Consider use of additional tables to encourage seating over standing
- Consider earlier closing times to discourage large gatherings
- Consider cancellation of specific pub based events or gatherings