**North Lincs Health & Safety Group - COVID-19 Update No 3 Thursday 9th April 2020**

As we approach the Easter Bank Holiday Weekend with hopefully good weather, remember to follow the guidelines set, to stay at home, protect lives and save the NHS. We have seen in the news this week that the Coronavirus does not discriminate against who can catch it.

## **Limiting spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) in business and workplaces**

Businesses and employers can help reduce the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) by:

* Cleaning an area with normal household disinfectant after someone with suspected coronavirus (COVID-19) has left will reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people
* Wherever possible, wear disposable or washing-up gloves and aprons for cleaning. These should be double-bagged, then stored securely for 72 hours then thrown away in the regular rubbish after cleaning is finished
* Using a disposable cloth, first clean hard surfaces with warm soapy water. Then disinfect these surfaces with the cleaning products you normally use. Pay particular attention to frequently touched areas and surfaces, such as bathrooms, grab-rails in corridors and stairwells and door handles
* If an area has been heavily contaminated, such as with visible bodily fluids, from a person with coronavirus (COVID-19), consider using protection for the eyes, mouth and nose, as well as wearing gloves and an apron
* Wash hands regularly with soap and water for 20 seconds, and after removing gloves, aprons and other prote**c**tion used while cleaning

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

# **Update from the HSE - Social distancing and in-work activities during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak**

* In these extraordinary times, HSE is constantly reviewing the fast-moving situation with our partners across government to support the national effort to tackle COVID-19.
* While social distancing is fundamentally a public health measure introduced to reduce the spread of infection, we recognise the concerns raised on social distancing within the workplace and are in contact with trade unions.
* Where HSE identifies employers who are not taking action to comply with the relevant Public Health England (PHE) guidance to control public health risks, eg employers not taking appropriate action to socially distance or ensure workers in the shielded category can follow the NHS advice to self-isolate for the period specified, we will consider taking a range of actions to improve control of workplace risks. These actions include the provision of specific advice to employers through to issuing enforcement notices to help secure improvements with the PHE guidance.
* In your workplace you need to observe, where possible, the social distancing guidance.
* Keep your business open. With the exception of non-essential shops and public venues the HSE are not asking any other businesses to close – indeed it is important for business to carry on.
* Employers who have people in their offices or onsite should ensure that employees are able, where possible, to follow the PHE guidelines on social distancing (including, where possible, maintaining a 2 metre distance from others), and hygiene (washing their hands with soap and water often for at least 20 seconds).

The full guidance from the HSE can be located at [www.hse.gov.uk/news/social-distancing-coronavirus.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/news/social-distancing-coronavirus.htm). Additional guidance has been published by the Government on how to manage social distancing for different industry sectors go to <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/social-distancing-in-the-workplace-during-coronavirus-covid-19-sector-guidance?dm_i=4WKY,BPET,10AKL9,1ALE7,1> to read the full advice.

There are many services that are able to offer support for employees that are affected by the Coronavirus, whether it be financial, worried about the health of a family member, or their health. All of which will offer free confidential advice.

[www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk) Phone: Advice Line: 03444 111 444 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm)

[www.mind.org.uk](http://www.mind.org.uk) Phone: 0300 123 3393 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 6pm)

[www.anxietyuk.org.uk](http://www.anxietyuk.org.uk) Phone: 0300 123 3393 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 6pm)

[www.samaritans.org.uk](http://www.samaritans.org/) Phone: 116 123 (free 24-hour helpline)

Government advice:

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

     <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19>

 [https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-coronavirus-information-service-on-whatsapp?](https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/zZ8ICGv05S1J8Mxu7gpnw)

NHS advice:  <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19>

Advice for travellers:  <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/advice-for-travellers>

NHS 111 on line advice: <https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19> or Telephone 111