

Considerate Constructors Scheme 'Coaching through Coronavirus' webinar

Questions & Answers
1 May 2020



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The following questions and answers are in relation to the 'Coaching through Coronavirus' webinar which took place on 1 May 2020, 1300-1345.

They are only to be used in reference with the webinar and all answers provided with any links to external guidance or otherwise may relate to any guidance in place at the time of the webinar.

Please click [here](#) to watch the webinar recording.

CCS registrations and visits

What is the plan for newly registered sites?

Newly registered sites and those due a visit from 17 March onwards (until further notice) are being offered virtual monitoring visits.

Are CCS now only concentrating on Covid-19 during their monitoring?

CCS is carrying out virtual monitoring visits using the existing Checklist. Clearly some areas of the Checklist have an increased priority, due to the current restrictions, and Monitors will be especially interested in the site's response to these areas.

Have any construction sites been visited where refurbishment works are being carried out?

CCS is carrying out virtual monitoring visits using the existing Checklist. All sectors of construction are able to be monitored in this way.

Social distancing

Do you think social distancing measures will be the new "normal" ?

It is imperative that the industry follows the [Site Operating Procedures Version 3](#) (published by the Construction Leadership Council on 14 April 2020). These procedures may alter over time as Government and Public Health England advice changes.

Are construction companies looking at agreements of trust, tracking and risk assessment where working within 2 metres is required?

Please refer to the Best Practice Hub [coronavirus section](#) where examples of practice may be available on this topic. Examples are continually being uploaded on the Hub.

Are there any innovative products or technologies available to monitors to warn when the 2 metre rule is not being met?

Please refer to the Best Practice Hub [coronavirus section](#) where examples of practice may be available on this topic. Examples are continually being uploaded on the Hub.

Is the 15 minute close proximity period per day or are multiple 15 minute periods permitted throughout the course of a day?

The 15 minute control measure is one of a number identified within the hierarchy in the [Site Operating Procedures Version 3](#). The risk assessment should have minimised the need for face-to-face working and limit the workers involved in this type of work.

PPE

Are masks required for use on site?

The [Site Operating Procedures Version 3](#) (published by the Construction Leadership Council on 14 April 2020) gives guidance on the use of PPE and RPE. The wider use of masks is covered by the general guidance given by [Public Health England](#).

Are Asbestos workers not already wearing PPE to allow adjacent working ?

The Control of Asbestos Regulations are a statutory requirement and therefore this would inform any risk assessment.

Are surgical masks adequate for works which would normally not require masks?

The [Site Operating Procedures Version 3](#) is clear that RPE should not be used for work where the 2 metre social distancing guidelines are met. The use of surgical masks generally would be subject to any advice from Public Health England prevailing at the time.

How do you dispose of potentially Covid-19 contaminated PPE once used?

No one with symptoms should be at work. If someone develops symptoms at work, they should be isolated and return home or follow the advice of the NHS. The [Site Operating Procedures Version 3](#) contains guidance on single use and reusable PPE.

We're having problems sourcing face masks. What do we do if we can't get them and our supply runs out?

If the risk assessment requires RPE for a work activity then it must be used. However RPE is the lowest control in the hierarchy and perhaps alternative ways of working can be considered.

Working procedures

What are the biggest problems with reinforced concrete frame sites that are social distancing?

Additional crane hook time should be allowed when planning works such as these. The management of social distancing is covered in the current [Site Operating Procedures Version 3](#) (published by the Construction Leadership Council on 14 April 2020).

Should higher risk activities on construction sites (e.g. installing scaffolding/working at height) be avoided to minimise the risks of injury that may ultimately require hospital treatment?

All activities require a risk assessment that avoids injury, and the process of social distancing should not add any additional risk. If it does, the work should be redesigned to mitigate that risk. The statutory requirement is to manage risk in-line with the hierarchy of risk controls. More information is available on the [HSE website](#).

Are we able to work in people's homes?

The [Site Operating Procedures Version 3](#) (published by the Construction Leadership Council on 14 April 2020) provide guidelines about working in people's homes. However, many landlords and social housing clients are only allowing entry into people's homes for urgent repair work. Anyone working in these sorts of situations should discuss their revised risk assessment with the landlord/client and home owner.

Has there been a joint approach taken by CCS in terms of guidelines to cover projects in Northern Ireland and England in terms of compliance with Covid-19?

The [Site Operating Procedures](#) are published by the Construction Leadership Council, representing UK construction. However devolved administrations such as Northern Ireland may have a series of local arrangements. Links to local arrangements where relevant can be found on the [coronavirus page](#) of the CCS website.

CLC advice appears to contradict HSE guidelines; how is this being resolved?

The [Site Operating Procedures Version 3](#) (published by the Construction Leadership Council on 14 April 2020) provides guidance to the construction industry for working with the current social distancing restrictions. Health and Safety legislation is a statutory requirement and as such represents the minimum standard that is required.

Are sites taking workers' temperatures as part of the induction process?

Please refer to the Best Practice Hub [coronavirus section](#) which includes examples of initiatives being used in this area.

Examples and practices

Do you have best practice guidance for Covid-19 management, with photo examples and procedures provided by sites?

Yes, we have examples on the Best Practice Hub [coronavirus section](#), with examples and procedures. This section is continually being updated.

Are there any best practice examples which SMEs can access which may be applicable to their projects?

There are a range of best practice examples available on the Scheme's Best Practice Hub [coronavirus section](#) [here](#). This is continually being updated with examples.

Where could I find good examples of coronavirus risk assessments?

Please refer to the Best Practice Hub [coronavirus section](#) where examples of practice may be available on this topic. Examples are continually being uploaded on the Hub.

Are there examples of deep cleans which have been performed on sites?

Please refer to the Best Practice Hub [coronavirus section](#) which includes examples of initiatives being used in this area.

Travel

What guidance is available about work travel for those in the construction industry?

The [Site Operating Procedures Version 3](#) (published by the Construction Leadership Council on 14 April 2020) gives guidance where public transport is the only option for workers. Many sites are providing additional parking arrangements and encouraging workers to use their own vehicles. Social distancing rules as described by Public Health England are applicable for journeys to and from work, as well as at work.

The Considerate Constructors Scheme has put together a '[Coronavirus resources](#)' section on our website and a series of 'Coaching through Coronavirus' webinars to provide resources to help support the industry, its workforce and the general public through the coronavirus pandemic and beyond.

Our approach is to offer resources which help with Caring, Coaching and Supporting through this crisis.

Please see the [CCS website](#), the [Best Practice Hub](#) and follow us on Twitter [@CCScheme](#) and [@ccsbestpractice](#), where we will help to raise awareness of these resources.