



22nd July 2021

Dear Licensee/Hospitality Owner/Event Organiser

Thank you for all you do to keep your colleagues and clients, and thus the community, safe from COVID-19.

Given that Government guidance has changed as of 19th July we are writing to let you know where you can still find useful information about keeping your workforce and customers safe whilst responding to cases of coronavirus infection in your workplace. Cases are continuing to rise in Stockport and though it is good news that we are not seeing the sharp increase in hospitalisations we have seen in previous waves, we are still seeing significant disruption – particularly arising from self-isolation requirements. Continuing to take measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 will help to reduce the risk of disruption or illness to your workforce and customers.

Continuing to manage COVID-19 safe working

As an employer and/or a self-employed person, you will still be required to carry out a COVID-19 risk assessment, under The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, and to take reasonable steps to mitigate any risks. You should take into account the risks to staff, customers and others (see [Risk assessment - Working safely during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) pandemic \(hse.gov.uk\)](https://www.hse.gov.uk/covid19/working-safely/)). If you have more than 5 members of staff you are required to record the findings of your risk assessment.

Items to consider in your risk assessment include:

1. Steps to keep contractors and visitors safe
2. Consider if additional measures need to be taken to protect people classed as vulnerable
3. Measures to keep staff safe at work such as the provision of additional hand wash facilities e.g. hand sanitiser, reminding staff of the importance of frequent hand washing, reducing the need for people to shout by lowering music and other background noise, reducing touch points, increasing the frequency of cleaning, and good ventilation
4. How to manage a suspected outbreak of COVID-19

This list is not exhaustive and is intended for guidance purposes only.

Please consider in detail the **new guidance for specific work settings** (19 July onwards):

[Updates - Working safely during coronavirus \(COVID-19\): guidance from Step 4 - Guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/updates-to-working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-from-step-4)

Vaccination

Vaccines are the best way to protect people from coronavirus. This can help protect your workforce, and customers, and ultimately the community, as well as support business continuity. For more information on how to promote vaccination please visit: [COVID-19 vaccination: guide for employers - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-vaccination-guide-for-employers)

Contact tracing in the event of someone testing positive for coronavirus: Test – Trace - Isolate

Please ensure your colleagues alert you promptly if they have symptoms or test positive, whether at work or not. If someone has tested positive, they and their household members must self-isolate at home without delay. Stopping anyone with the virus from being at work is an important step in preventing spread in the workplace.

You need to also assess whether they have been in close contact with other workers, clients, or visitors. Currently any 'close contacts' also need to self-isolate for 10 days to reduce the risk of onward spread. A 'close contact' is defined in this guidance: [NHS Test and Trace in the workplace - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-in-the-workplace), which also contains other important information on your role in contact tracing. It is important that any close contacts (during the positive case's infectious period) are identified quickly. Self-isolation is more than just working from home, it means staying at home, not going out for school, work, visits, shopping etc. and not receiving visitors. The guidance for self-isolation of contacts is expected to change in mid-august so please consult the latest government guidance.

Please remember that if your work routinely involves close contact (e.g. hairdresser, beautician), your clients may need to be identified as such, regardless of additional safety measures in place, such as face coverings etc. Such measures do reduce the risk of transmission, but do not exempt anyone from being identified as a close 'contact' if they meet the definition in the above guidance.

If you need any support in responding to a positive case of COVID-19 in your workplace, feel free to contact us at contact.tracing@stockport.gov.uk (Monday to Friday), or Public Health England on 0344 225 0562. Employers should call the Self-Isolation Service Hub on 020 3743 6715 as soon as they are made aware that any of their workers have tested positive.

You can also visit our advice page (includes a reporting function): [Advice and information for businesses and employers - Stockport Council](#)

The GM Business Growth Hub site also provides helpful guidance on managing COVID in the workplace: [Managing the emergence of COVID-19 cases in the workplace | GC Business Growth Hub](#)

Regular twice weekly rapid lateral flow tests by all staff, at home or at work, will help identify some asymptomatic positive people and thus help avoid spread to others.

Support for self-isolation

We try to support anyone having to self-isolate as best we can locally – please feel free to offer this support to any self-isolating colleagues: [Help for vulnerable people - Stockport Council](#).

QR codes, venue alerts, and the NHS COVID-19 App

Although businesses are no longer legally required to collect contact details of those attending, this is still encouraged. A QR code check-in system can generate lists of individuals having attended a venue at a particular time. This can be used to generate a 'venue alert' to 'warn and inform' individuals in case someone has tested positive who attended at the same time. The alert does not identify the venue. Importantly, the QR code system does not contact-trace or tell anyone to self-isolate who may be a contact. Contact tracing has to be done separately.

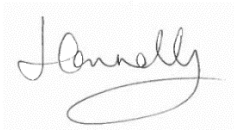
The NHS COVID-19 App ([The NHS COVID-19 app support website - NHS.UK \(covid19.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/covid19-app-support-website)) can be used to check into a venue using the QR code. The App also includes a contact tracing function. It can send anonymous alerts if the user has been in close contact with another App user who has tested positive and will notify them that they should self-isolate. It does not identify the source of

infection, nor the location, so people may not readily know how they became a contact. However, it is important to follow the self-isolation advice of the App to stem the risk of onward transmission.

In our experience, engaging the workforce and encouraging them to adhere to safe working practices is key in maintaining safety. You may want to share this short attractive **video** as a quick reminder of how the virus is transmitted and what individuals can do to keep themselves safe:

[How the Covid-19 virus spreads \(2021\) - YouTube](#)

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Connolly', with a large, sweeping loop at the bottom.

Jennifer Connolly

Director of Public Health

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Glynn', with a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark Glynn

Director of Place Management