

Covid-19 Risk Control for tradespeople visiting occupied households

This guidance has been produced in good faith to assist tradespeople and contractors in planning risk assessments and Covid-19 prevention controls when visiting occupied households and similar locations. All existing risk assessments should be subject to review in light of the [CLC Guidance on SOP](#) and [Social distancing in the workplace during coronavirus \(COVID-19\): sector guidance](#) together with [Guidance on social distancing for everyone in the UK](#) and [Staying at home and away from others \(social distancing\)](#). This will prevent tasks where social distancing cannot be achieved from taking place.

At all times, workers should follow the [guidance](#) on self-isolation if they or anyone in their household shows symptoms.

Protecting the public and employees

At present the guidance confirms that work carried out in people's homes, for example by tradespeople carrying out repairs and maintenance, can continue, provided that the tradesperson is well and has no symptoms. Again, it will be important to ensure that Public Health England guidelines, including maintaining a 2 metre distance from any household occupants, are followed to ensure everyone's safety.

Checking the health of your employees:

Employees should be vigilant and [self report symptoms](#), however line managers could check in daily with those under their control to ensure they remain healthy and are not experiencing any symptoms.

Anyone who meets one or more of the following criteria should not come work:

- Has a high temperature or a new persistent cough - follow the guidance on self-isolation.
- Is a vulnerable person (by virtue of their age, underlying health condition, clinical condition or are pregnant).
- Is within 14 days of the day when the first member of their household showed symptoms of Coronavirus Anyone who is living with someone who is shielding from Coronavirus should stringently follow guidance on social distancing and minimise contact outside the home.

No work should be carried out by an employee (or sub-contractor) who has coronavirus symptoms, however mild. If unsure, check in with your line manager and discuss prior to attending site/household.

Checking the health of householders:

Whilst you should not be too intrusive with questions about the health of householders or similar sites you are visiting, you should ensure that your employees are not exposed to conditions where they are at increased risk of contracting Covid-19.

You could politely request in an email, or via phone call and record the findings, if any of the householders is experiencing symptoms, however mild. This should be undertaken as close as possible to the visit, with a final check on the day of the visit.

No work should be carried out in any household which is isolating or where an individual is being shielded unless it is to remedy a direct risk to the safety of the household, such as emergency electrical repairs, and where the employee is willing to do so. It is advised that even if willing, if they have symptoms, are a vulnerable person or are living with one, they do not attend.

Access to hand washing facilities: You could request that where safe to do so, the householder allows your employees access to hand washing facilities. If this is not possible, ensure that employees are issued with hand sanitiser gel.

At householders/other premises

The following measures are proposed when visiting households:

1. You should notify all clients in advance of your arrival.
2. You should maintain a safe distance (at least 2 metres) from any household occupants at all times, and ensure good ventilation in the area where you are working, including opening the window.
3. Plan to take tools and equipment you will likely require in one visit rather than going in and out of the property. Consider ringing in advance/when you arrive to confirm there is someone present.
4. Knock/ring door bell and step back from the door to maintain social distancing.
5. In blocks of flats, try to use staircases rather than lifts where you see approaching people to maintain social distance.
6. Explain who you are and present identification. This can be pushed to the householder if necessary.
7. If you are not familiar with the premises, ask that the householder directs you to the problem, distribution board etc whilst maintaining the social distancing of 2m.
8. Request if handwashing facilities are available, and where they are.
9. Wash your hands upon arrival for where possible for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser.
10. If you need to use the toilet facilities ensure you wash your hands before and after use.
11. Politely decline any offers of food/drink. Do not eat your own food at the client premises.
12. Explain the task and what may happen (power outages, lights on and off etc depending on the task).
13. Politely request that they locate themselves in an area away from your working particularly if children are present. This is best health and safety practice anyway.
14. Consider using barriers/chairs/other items to create a zone around you to indicate the 2m distance.
15. Undertake your work as you would normally do with the normal risk controls in place for the task. Ensuring good ventilation opening windows where possible.
16. Try to prevent touching your face/mouth and surfaces around the premises that are not essential for the work.
17. When working return tools immediately to your tool box, or lay on your dust sheet. Do not place on client surfaces.
18. If clients begin to encroach on the 2m social distancing rule, politely remind them. If you feel uncomfortable and the rule is being broken leave site.
19. Clean your work area as you would normally do removing and dust and debris. Point out to the client where you have been working so they can clean the area further if they wish to.
20. If possible, wash tool handles before leaving site.
21. Take any waste/rubbish you create with you.
22. Wash your hands before departure where possible or use hand sanitiser and do not touch door handles, doors etc on your way out.
23. If you have to leave and enter the property again, ensure the same access procedures are applied and you wash your hands before working.

Procedure if someone falls ill

If a worker develops a high temperature or a persistent cough while at work, they should:

- Return home immediately (if they feel too unwell to drive consider calling their emergency contact to take them home, if seriously unwell call an ambulance).
- Avoid touching anything
- Cough or sneeze into a tissue and put it in a bin, or if they do not have tissues, cough and sneeze into the crook of their elbow. They must then follow the guidance on self-isolation and not return to work until their period of self-isolation has been completed.