

MWCC Best Practice Guidance Note – January 2021.

COVID-19 Alert Level 5

Approved by: HS2 MWCC, SCS JV, Align JV, EKFB JV and BBV JV.

This guidance note should be read in conjunction with the Construction Leadership Council guidance including their Site Operating Procedures (CLC SOP), currently at version 7 at time of writing and all applicable HM Government guidance relating to working safely during COVID-19. The MWCCs are all committed to working in accordance with these procedures and

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home#when-you-can-leave-home>

Objective

This guidance note provides a set of best practice guiding principles and behaviours that builds upon previous best practice guidance note but specifically targeted at the UK Governments Covid Alert Level 5.

These guiding principles represents the MWCC IPTs further commitment to 'I care, You Count, We Matter'. The health, safety and wellbeing of all staff stakeholders, the local communities in which we work, our supply chain and their families comes first whilst we will consistently apply our 4 values of Safety, Integrity, Respect and Leadership to COVID-19 controls and best practice.

As a government project, and to protect our reputational risk, it is important that we recognise that this is the first time that the country has been put into this Alert which means our NHS is in danger of being overwhelmed. Regions are starting to declare states of emergency indicating that local ambulance services may struggle to cope with emergency situations and that response times are dropping below desired standards.

Therefore, these controls are intended to be short term only during Alert Level 5 to support the government and to be adopted by all MWCC IPTs.

Reducing Time on Site

- Reducing attendance on site to only essential personnel is key to controlling the virus.
- Where it is reasonable, all work must be carried out from home unless it is absolutely necessary to attend the workplace.
- Carrying out an essential activity on site, whilst requiring full site PPE, is deemed as or defined as an absolutely necessary task.
- You should only remain on site, or in workplaces for the duration of that task.
- Any activity on site that is required to discharge legal or contractual duties must continue.
- Movements between sites should be kept to an absolute minimum.
- In general, other than for emergency maintenance or repair, visitors to sites and offices should be eliminated.

Social Distancing

- 2.0m social distancing should be maintained for all activities

- 1m+ mitigation controls should be paused to help reduce the likelihood of transmission. Where this affects 'Must Do' activities and the activity is absolutely necessary, the RAMS should be reviewed and covid controls re-briefed to the workforce prior to commencement.

Facial Coverings

- Face coverings should be worn as a minimum in enclosed spaces, where social distancing isn't always possible and where they come into contact with others they do not normally meet.
- Face coverings must be worn in canteens except when seated at a table to eat or drink.
- Those that are exempt from wearing a face covering in enclosed spaces should be asked to redesign their activities to avoid enclosed spaces or to work from home during alert level 5 to help reduce the likelihood of transmission.

Ventilation

- Should be reassessed inside all buildings and increased further where possible.

Travel

- Face coverings MUST be worn at all times when travelling (except if alone in private transport)
- The use of public transport should be avoided. Where this is unavoidable (such as central London) then social distancing MUST be practiced on the journey into work.
- Allowances should be given to adjusting start/finish times to help stagger arrivals and avoid busy times on public transport.
- Workers should not be penalised for late arrival due to social distancing on busy public transport.
- No sharing of private transport, except if in bubbles or where 2m social distancing can be achieved with increased ventilation.
- Those that are exempt from wearing a face covering should avoid public transport and not share transport with any other person, except if in a bubble.
- Increased provision of car parking.
- Unnecessary travel between worksites and non-essential use of locals stores and other amenities should be avoided.

Offices

- Head office administrative functions not involved in the direct management, supervision or monitoring of QHSSE standards, relating to construction activities, are not part of a construction site that require in-person attendance and should be closed to the majority of staff.
- Head offices can be used to accommodate those that need to leave their homes to avoid injury or illness or to escape risk of harm (such as domestic abuse) or where it is not physically possible to work at home. However, in these circumstances, space at a site office maybe prioritised over a head office desk.
- 2m social distancing should be maintained regardless of Perspex screening.
- Attending the office for perceived general wellbeing reasons such as socialisation is not defined by government as a reasonable excuse to leave home in Alert Level 5.

Improving Supplier Engagement

- Additional contact should be made with the supply chain to ensure their business continuity plans are updated and that they too can support this best practice document.

Testing

- MWCCs should provide some form of proactive testing to help reduce the likelihood of transmission on our projects and providing further assurance to our workforce and communities that we are going everything to eliminate or reduce the risk of further transmission.

NHS Responsibility.

- To help reduce the current pressure on the NHS, activities that have risk of serious injury requiring medical intervention (broken bones) should be reviewed and only undertaken if absolutely necessary.
- Where practicable, MWCC construction sites should look to have access to a private ambulance service and private care in the event of a severe incident thus helping to reduce pressure on the NHS.

Providing Resilience

- Rotas should be enforced so that in the event of an outbreak, a different team bubble can attend to continue the operations.
- All MWCCs should be prepared for the further tightening of rules in the event that current restrictions do not reduce transmission and hospital admission.