Covid-19 Bulletin 28 May 2020



How to conduct a Covid-19 risk assessment in the workplace

The Health and Safety Executive has published guidance to help you conduct a risk assessment.

Carrying out a risk assessment in one of the <u>5 practical steps</u> that the Government is asking businesses to follow to help keep employees and customers safe in the workplace:

- 1. Carry out a COVID-19 risk assessment
- 2. Develop cleaning, handwashing and hygiene procedures
- 3. Help people to work from home
- 4. Maintain 2m social distancing, where possible
- 5. Where people cannot be 2m apart, manage transmission risk

Employers have a duty to consult their workers, and unions where applicable, as part of their risk assessment. Involving workers in this will help build trust and confidence that all reasonably practicable steps are being taken to reduce risks of COVID-19, so that people can return to work safely. Employers should share the risk assessment with employees and consider publishing it on their website.

NHS Test and Trace service goes live

The new NHS Test and Trace service has launched across England today.

The Government has today published guidance for people who have been notified by NHS Test and Trace that they are a contact of a person who has had a positive test result for Covid-19.

New guidance means those who have been in close contact with someone who tests positive must isolate for 14 days, even if they have no symptoms.

The Government has also published <u>guidance for employers and businesses</u> to explain how they can play their part in the NHS test and trace programme to slow the spread of the virus.

It is vital that employers:

- make their workplaces as safe as possible
- encourage workers to heed any notifications to self-isolate and support them when in isolation

Full details of how the Test and Trace service works has also been published.

New criteria added for eligibility of the Statutory Sick Pay Rebate Scheme

The Government has today updated the <u>guidance for the Coronavirus Statutory Sick Pay Rebate Scheme</u> to reflect that employers can now claim for employees who are self-isolating because they've been notified by the NHS or public health bodies that they've come into contact with someone with coronavirus.

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Covid-19 risk level and case volumes by local area and region

The Government is publishing a <u>daily dashboard</u> showing data on the latest number of Covid-19 cases and risk levels across the UK.

You can look by local authority and region to see relevant information local to you. The 'rate' shows the number of cases per 100,000 population, so is more indicative of the level of risk as a comparison to other areas of the UK.