

### SARIA LTD COVID-19 RISK ASSESSMENT – Version 1.1

Hazard	People at risk	Controls Required	Additional Controls	Assigning actions & completion
Spread of COVID-19 and the impact of this on the wellbeing of our people, stakeholders and continued business operations.	Employees     Visitors     Contractors     Members of the supply chain     3 <sup>rd</sup> party drivers     Agency workers  *Specifically, those in vulnerable groups – i.e. elderly, pregnant workers, those with existing underlying health conditions as detailed on gov.co.uk	<ul> <li>Hand Washing</li> <li>Hand washing facilities with soap and water in place.</li> <li>Stringent hand washing taking place.</li> <li>See hand washing guidance. https://www.gov.uk/government/news/public-information-campaign-focuses-on-handwashing</li> <li>Drying of hands with paper towels and disposing of these in bins provided.</li> <li>Employees are encouraged to protect the skin by applying hand cream daily to protect against drying skin.</li> </ul>	Employees to be reminded on a regular basis to wash their hands for 20 seconds with water and soap and the importance of proper drying with disposable towels.  Employees reminded to catch coughs and sneezes in tissues — Follow Catch it, Bin it, Kill it and to avoid touching face, eyes, nose or mouth with unclean hands. Tissues will be made available throughout the workplace.  Employees to report any issues to management where experienced.  To help reduce the spread of COVID-19, all people present at our sites are reminded of the Government advice via posters, leaflets and other materials which are on display.	It is noted that the business has been assigned 'critical' status in respect of its industry operations within waste, food and food chain manufacturing and utilities.  As such, the business has continued to operate safely and successfully throughout the pandemic.  This risk assessment therefore acts as a single document representative of the Cowidential Company response to the COVID-19 pandemic.



 Hand sanitisers in any area where washing facilities not readily available and particularly at entry/exit points.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment data/file/876212/COVID19 GuidanceEmployers and businesses.pdf

 Hand washing is particularly relevant at meal breaks, smoking breaks and washroom breaks.

Rigorous checks will be carried out by line managers to ensure that the necessary procedures are being followed and standards of cleanliness are maintained.

# Frequent cleaning and disinfecting objects and

Cleaning

surfaces which are touched regularly is required.

 Particular attention to be given to high use areas such as door handles, light switches, reception areas, washroom areas, computer equipment, telephones and desks. Each employee will be responsible for cleaning of their own workstation and equipment at regular intervals and after use, no less than at the start and end of their working day.

Drivers will be responsible for maintaining the cleanliness of their vehicle and should make time on a daily basis to ensure standards are maintained.

Responsibility the implementation and continued adherence to the measures outlined in this document is shared by all employees, visitors. contractors and other stakeholders to ensure the continued health, safety and wellbeing of our employees and all individuals who come into contact with our business.

The Directors and Senior Leadership Team are responsible for ensuring continued adherence to these requirements and will ensure these are enforced.

Failure to comply with the measures undertaken in this document is considered as a serious case of gross misconduct and will be subject to formal action in accordance with our policies and procedures.



 Appropriate cleaning products and methods will be used in accordance with all existing COSHH risk assessments of products in use.

Social Distancing

- Compliance with the 2-metre rule is advised for all employees wherever possible.
- Working from home is advised as preferable for all employees who have capacity to fulfil the full remit of their role remotely and is implemented where possible.
- It is acknowledged that a large number of employees must continue to attend work to fulfil their duties. Social distancing is in place for these employees.

Employees to be reminded on a daily basis of the importance of social distancing both in the workplace and outside of it by Line Managers.

Management checks are in place to ensure this is adhered to.

Employees are responsible for ensure they maintain appropriate distance from others at all points during their working day.

Employees working at home are issued with guidance to maintain good physical and mental health, particularly with regards to DSE assessment of workstation, taking of breaks and access to Employee Assistance Programme materials for maintaining positive mental wellbeing.

We trust that all employees will willingly co-operate with the content of this document and raise any concerns with their Line Manager for prompt resolution.

This risk assessment will be reviewed at suitable intervals in accordance with any changes in Government advice.



- All employees are able to maintain adequate social distancing in their roles for the majority of tasks. Where this is not possible, employees will work back-to-back or side-by-side for minimal time periods.
- Work schedules, start & finish times and shift patterns have been reviewed to ensure numbers of employees on site at any one time are reduced where possible.
- Use of communal areas during breaks is staggered to prevent congregating of employees in canteens and smoking areas.
- Internal travel of employees between sites is restricted.

Employees are reminded to avoid use of public transport for their commute where possible. Car sharing with those outside employee households is not permitted.

Entry and exit points/security checks have been modified where possible to reduce requirement for touch readings. Individual clock cards should not be passed between individuals and gloves should be worn by those who need to handle the card other than the card holder.

Where tasks require 2 employees to be completed safely and social distancing cannot be maintained, these will be assessed by management on an individual basis, only proceeding where business critical.

Tables and chairs in communal areas will be marked as available or unavailable for use to maintain social distancing measures.



- Additional guidance has been issued to our First Aiders to ensure they are able to maintain the health, safety and wellbeing of themselves and any individual requiring first aid, both prior to during and post first aid delivery.
- In the event of a fire or evacuation emergency is acknowledged that social distancing will not be maintained. Fire Marshalls will be responsible for ensuring appropriate sanitation measures are taken by all individuals post-evacuation.
- Delivery and postal despatch processes to be undertaken by a minimal number of employees to reduce unnecessary contact, making use of contactless processes where possible.

It is acknowledged that some employees have minimal flexibility in their shift patterns/working hours and in these circumstances, particular attention should be given to exit and entry points to ensure appropriate distancing is maintained between employees arriving and departing the workplace.

Employee meetings (internal/external) are to be held remotely using conference facilities.

Stationary sharing is not permitted.

Internal meetings can only be held face-toface with permission from a Director and where social distancing can be maintained.

Any meetings which are held should be in well-ventilated areas or outdoors where possible, maintaining social distancing. Use of air-conditioning units is not permitted unless explicitly advised whereby the unit complies with guidelines regarding air recirculation.



#### **Contractor & Visitor Management**

- External visitors and contractors at sites are limited to those which are business critical and all are to be made aware that compliance with this risk assessment is required at all times.
- Where possible, contractors will be asked to complete works at times whereby there is a reduced employee presence on site. Where this is not possible, social distancing will be maintained.
- All contractors and partnering businesses are required to provide a copy of their COVID-19 risk assessment prior to attendance of our sites, to ensure mutual compliance and to protect the wellbeing of our employees.

Signage is in place in the reception areas of all sites to confirm requirements of all visitors and contractors for co-operation with our hygiene, distancing and safeworking measures.

Contractor and visitor inductions to be undertaken remotely and will include a copy of the COVID-19 risk assessment.

Visitor records will continue to be maintained to enable tracking and tracing of visitors if necessary.

Visitors and contractors are requested not to bring personal items to site during their visit to prevent contamination.



PPE	
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- Where Risk Assessment identifies wearing of gloves as an existing requirement of a task, an adequate supply of these will be provided.
- Employees should dispose of any single-use gloves safely to reduce contamination.
- Public Health guidance on the use of masks as PPE (personal protective equipment) to protect against COVID-19 relates mainly to health care settings. However, we are now that masks aware are within mandatory retail settings. Therefore, any of our employees required to visit properties whilst retail undertaking their duties will be provided with a mask.

Employees are reminded that wearing of gloves is not a substitute for good hand washing protocols.

Employees are not encouraged to use precautionary PPE, including masks and face coverings, whereby they are not already deemed a requirement of their role.

If a particular task requires close proximity working for an extended period where social distancing cannot be maintained, this will be identified in the individual task-specific risk assessment or safe working procedure.

Should employees choose to wear a homemade face covering, they must be aware these are not a replacement for hand washing, sanitation and social distancing.

Whereby a homemade face covering is used, the following must be observed;

- wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser before putting a face covering on, and after removing it
- when wearing a face covering, avoid touching your face or face covering, as you could contaminate them with germs from your hands



- In all other settings employees are asked to observe social distancing measures and practice good hand hygiene behaviours as preference.
- Where RPE is an existing requirement for risks associated with the work undertaken, face-fit testing will continue in accordance with existing risk assessments.
- Tight-fitting respirators (such as disposable FFP3 masks and reusable half masks) rely on having a good seal with the wearer's face. A face fit test will be carried out to ensure the respiratory protective equipment (RPE) can protect the wearer.
- We consider hand sanitiser as a form of PPE and employees are issued with a personal supply, or have access to sanitiser, dependent upon their role.

- change your face covering if it becomes damp or if you have touched it
- continue to wash your hands regularly
- change and wash your face covering daily
- if the material is washable, wash in line with manufacturer's instructions; if it is not washable, dispose of it carefully in your usual waste.
- All employees must follow Government Guidance on safe disposal of face masks, as follows;

Remove PPE carefully, and avoid touching the inside of your face covering.

After you remove your PPE or face covering, wash your hands or use hand sanitiser.

If you need to throw away used face coverings or PPE, such as gloves:

- dispose of them in your 'black bag' waste bin at home or at work, or a litter bin if you're outside
- do not put them in a recycling bin as they cannot be recycled through conventional recycling facilities
- take them home with you if there is no litter bin - do not drop them as litter

You do not need to:

- put them in an extra bag
- store them for a time before throwing them away



Reference

https://www.hse.gov.uk/news/face-mask-ppe-rpe-coronavirus.htm

## Symptoms of COVID-19 & self-isolating

- If anyone becomes unwell with a new continuous cough or a high temperature in the workplace, they will be sent home and advised to follow the stay at home guidance.
- Line managers will maintain regular contact with staff members during this time.
- If advised that an employee or visitor has been diagnosed with COVID-19 and were recently on our premises (including where an employee has visited a workplace in our supply chain), the relevant work areas will be thoroughly disinfected.

To minimise the risk of transmission of COVID-19 during face-fit testing both the fit tester and those being fit tested should wash their hands before and after the test.

Those being fit tested with non-disposable masks should clean the mask themselves before and immediately after the test using a suitable disinfectant cleaning wipe (check with manufacturer to avoid damaging the mask).

Test face pieces that cannot be adequately disinfected (e.g. disposable half masks) should not be used by more than one individual.

Fit testers should wear disposable gloves when undertaking cleaning of the tubes, hoods etc. and ensure they remove gloves following the correct procedure.



- There is no current requirement for a workplace to close if there is a confirmed case of COVID-19.
- Whereby an employee receives a Track & Trace notification from the Government/NHS, they should make their line manager and HR Department aware immediately.
- In the absence of a Track & Trace notification there is no requirement for an employee to automatically self-isolate. They should continue to observe hygiene and distancing measures and monitor their own symptoms.
- Employees are made aware of the isolation guidelines in the event of them or a household member becoming ill with known COVID-19 symptoms (10/14 days as applicable).

Hand sanitiser is available for use by all individuals on site.

Internal communication channels and cascading of messages through line managers will be carried out regularly to reassure and support employees in a fast-changing situation.

Line managers will offer support to staff who are affected by COVID-19 or has a family member affected.

Communicate with those within our supply chain to ensure welfare facilities will be available to our drivers.

3<sup>rd</sup> party drivers visiting our sites will be permitted adequate breaks to make use of our welfare facilities.

Discussion forms are completed with each self-isolating employee to ensure their individual circumstances are known and logged.

This ensures we are able to monitor transmission rates amongst employee groups and respond accordingly with relevant interventions i.e. cleaning, communications and further reviews of this assessment.



- Although Government advice has now changed with regards to those who are vulnerable/shielding to permit a return to work, employees who have specific concerns should contact their line manager and HR Department for support/advice.
- As an 'essential' business, our employees have been assigned 'key worker' status. Whereby our employees or a member of their household is required to self-isolate due to suffering symptoms, test-referrals can be arranged for either a drivethrough test centre or delivery of a home-testing kit.

If employees who are required to selfisolate are able to complete the full remit of their duties from home and are well-enough to do so, home working arrangements will be permitted for this period.

Use of working from home measures can be facilitated dependent upon the requirements of the role, which assist in maintaining required distancing measures.

Key worker 'essential travel' and 'schooling requirement' letters issued to all employees to ensure our employees have access to continued schooling for their children and are not at risk of fines from law enforcement bodies.

Regular communication of mental health and wellbeing guidance available to all employees.

Equality legislation has been considered in application of all elements of this risk assessment and the measures advised.



 All pregnant employees have engaged in individual discussions regarding their circumstances and the most suitable course of action taken in accordance with their role and circumstances.

#### Communication

- All employees, contractors and visitors will continue to be updated with regards to all measures taken within the business to maintain safety and wellbeing.
- Updates are issued frequently and made available to all employees.
- Approved signage is displayed at all sites to promote distancing and hygiene measures.

Communication with Trade Unions and employee representatives is maintained throughout, to ensure consistency of message and a unified approach.

Mental health and wellbeing resources are provided, including financial wellbeing. Additional information is available for all to access;

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-public-onmental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-the-public-on-the-mental-health-and-wellbeing-aspects-of-coronavirus-covid-19.

Whereby employees do not have internet access, this should be made known to their line manager and access can be arranged or printed copies made available.



Mental health continues to be an important factor for all.	
Our measures and the content of this risk assessment will be shared with those in our supply chain to ensure best practice, increased co-operation and compliance with requirements to keep our people safe.	