

COVID – 19 (Legal Requirements Comparison (Housing Repairs) V2 dated 05.01.21

Area / Agency	1. Thinking about risk	2. Who should go to work	3. Social distancing for workers	4. Interacting with householders	5. Cleaning the work area	6. Personal protective equipment (PPE) and face coverings	7. Workforce management
<p>England HSE Public Health England Main reference Document: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19</p>	<p>Required to conduct risk assessment to include workers and occupants. Where occupants have symptoms or are self-isolating only emergency work should be undertaken.</p>	<p>Required to assess workforce to identify those who are part of a vulnerable group and therefore should not work where there is a COVID risk present in the property. Workers who have symptoms or who are self-isolating should not be at work, including working in anyone's property.</p>	<p>Required to maintain 2m distance whenever it can be achieved. Where this is not possible 1m distance can be allowed providing additional mitigations are in place (see note 1) Also need to consider travel to / from work in company vehicles.</p>	<p>Required to make appointments before attending and to explain arrangements for social distancing during the work (ie tenant in a different room). Also, having a documented appointment system in place will assist with track and trace in the event someone develops symptoms.</p>	<p>Required to clean / disinfect work areas (which can be cleaned) before and after the task. Also must have arrangements for the removal / disposal of any waste associated with the task and cleaning. Also linked with this is hygiene arrangements for the operative (handwashing / sanitiser)</p>	<p>Required to use all task related PPE as normal. In non-healthcare settings there is no additional requirements for PPE and the use of face coverings is not mandatory. (See note 2). However, when working in a property where there are confirmed or suspected cases of COVID – 19, the PPE requirements for clinical / healthcare settings should be followed. (Covered in our Emergency Repairs RA) Note: Face Coverings are not classed as PPE.</p>	<p>Overall requirement to plan and manage work so as to eliminate or manage the COVID associated with the work. This includes having effective Risk assessments, SSOW and ensuring operatives are trained. Our current suite of COVID documents should cover this.</p>
<p>Northern Ireland HSENI Public Health Agency NI Direct (for businesses) https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19</p>	<p>The information provided by both agencies is very limited and both refer to the English Gov agencies for the most up to date information / guidance. Therefore applying the same safe systems as being implemented in England should satisfy the NI requirements? Note: Branding on COVID workplace posters is specific to NI</p>						
<p>Scotland HSE Scotland Health Protection Scotland Main Reference Document: https://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/web-resources-container/covid-19-guidance-for-non-healthcare-settings/</p>	<p>In line with the joint position published by the Scottish Government and the relevant Health and Safety enforcement authorities, it is essential that employers carry out a COVID-19 risk assessment</p>	<p>Same requirement as England</p>	<p>Recommendation of the 2m rule outlined in the physical distancing guidance is adhered to. For work designated as essential, there are however circumstances where the 2 m rule cannot be followed despite all possible steps being taken to try to maintain this; A risk assessment should be conducted that considers the aspects and the outcome should be documented.</p>	<p>There appears to be no specific guidance on this. However the general requirement to risk assess for COVID would identify the controls required and the approach used above should be followed in the absence of anything more specific.</p>	<p>Again there appears to be no specific guidance although there is information available on cleaning contaminated areas after a confirmed case. The approach set out above follows the PH and NHS guidance and should be suitable in all cases</p>	<p>Same requirement to wear task related PPE. No specific requirements for non-task PPE (see note 2) As above for work in properties where there are confirmed or suspected cases of COVID – 19</p>	<p>Same requirement as England. Note: Branding on COVID workplace posters is specific to Scotland”</p>

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<p>Wales HSE Wales Public Health Wales https://phw.nhs.wales/topics/latest-information-on-novel-coronavirus-covid-19/ Main Reference Document: https://gov.wales/coronavirus https://phw.nhs.wales/topics/latest-information-on-novel-coronavirus-covid-19/</p>	<p>As NI, the information provided by both agencies is very limited and both refer to the English Gov agencies for the most up to date information / guidance. Therefore applying the same safe systems as being implemented in England should satisfy the NI requirements?</p> <p>Note: Branding on COVID workplace posters is specific to NI</p>
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<p>Additional Notes:</p> <p>1. Further increasing the frequency of hand washing and surface cleaning. ▪ Keeping the activity time involved as short as possible. ▪ Using screens or barriers to separate people from each other. ▪ Using back-to-back or side-to-side working (rather than face to-face) whenever possible. ▪ Reducing the number of people each person has contact with by using 'fixed teams or partnering' (so each person works with only a few others). Any task where physical distancing is reduced from a 2m distance must comply with Mears COVID-19 Close Working Risk Assessment</p> <p>2. The following links to the HSE & PHE websites refer to the requirements for PPE / Face coverings in non – healthcare settings. https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/ppe-face-masks/non-healthcare/index.htm https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-personal-protective-equipment-ppe Our current Risk Assessments for working in properties where there is a specific COVID risk include the appropriate PPE requirements including the wearing of face masks. Note: Face coverings are now mandatory when using public transport to travel to and from work and are also a compulsory requirement in garages, shops and merchants.</p> <p>.</p>
