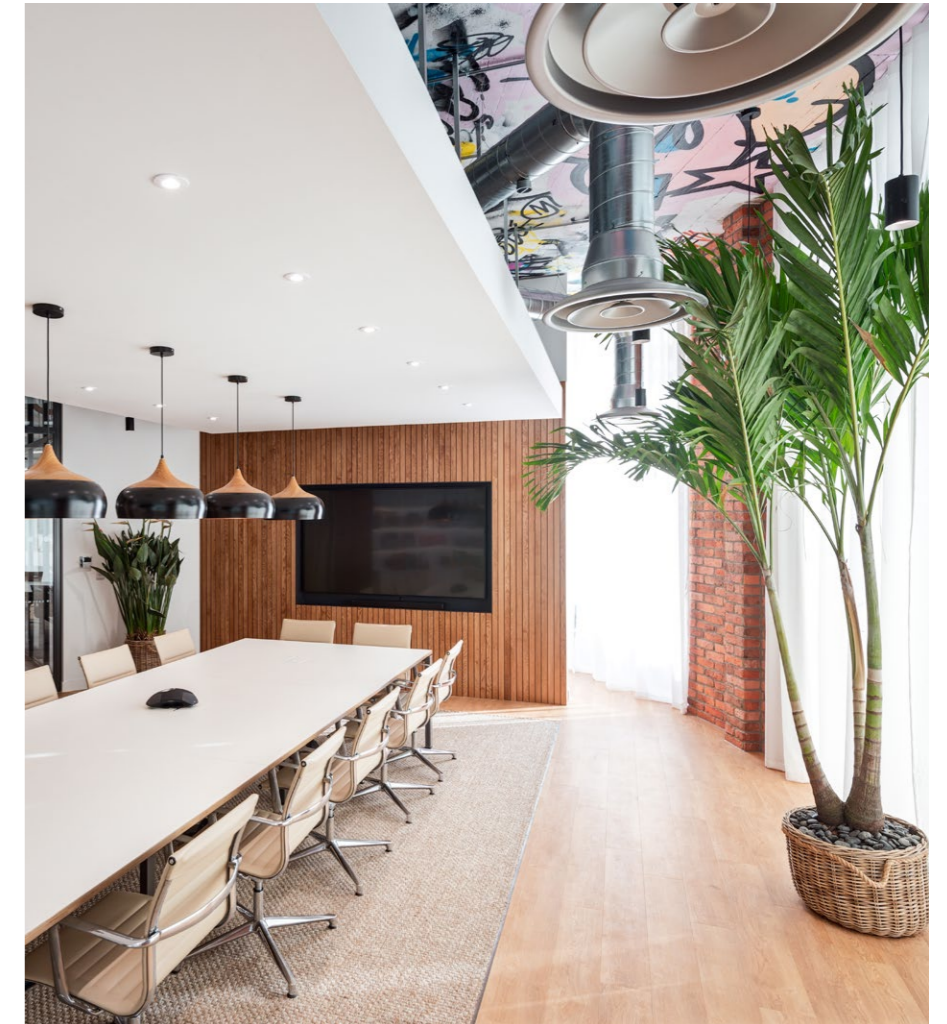




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## COVID-19 CONTINUITY

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# COVID-19 CONTINUITY

## 1. Policy Statement

Modus Workspace Limited (Modus) is a principal contractor delivering construction projects throughout the UK.

On behalf of everyone at Modus Workspace Limited (Modus), we would like to confirm our approach during the COVID 19 outbreak.

During this time of uncertainty, our main priority has always been, and will continue to be, putting the safety of not only our staff, family members, clients and business partners but also the welfare of the wider general public first.

Modus are following Government guidelines and directing all its employees to continue the practice of social distancing and working from home.

All our employees are set up to work remotely so they can stay digitally connected to each other, clients and business partners. We use Microsoft Teams for general collaboration, including video conferencing, and Zoom occasionally when it suits external parties or there's a need to have many pictures on the screen. Files are shared through SharePoint and Teams, and we also give VPN access to key individuals. The business has a group-wide license for Procore which we use to run projects. Procore allows document sharing internally and externally: with clients and business partners. Procore also provides sophisticated approval and mark-up tools to facilitate the technical submittal process.

It's the nature of our business and industry that we have employees and business partners on site delivering projects for our clients.

Our construction sites will remain open and we have put in place stringent procedures on all our sites to adhere to Government guidelines and the Construction Leadership Council (CLC) advice about social distancing and travelling to site. We will continue to monitor the guidance from the Government and amend our procedures accordingly.

Modus has an approved network of suppliers and sub-contractors throughout the UK. We refer to these organisations as our business partners as they have always been an integral part of our service delivery to our clients. We have been working extremely closely with all our business partners since the outbreak of the virus to maintain a consistent supply of materials and labour to our sites. If one of partners is unable to support a particular project we will substitute with an equal alternative.

We are firmly in support of the construction economy and will do everything we can to help clients and business partners to keep operating in these difficult times. We will adapt our approach where necessary over the coming weeks in line with Government advice to maintain a high level of service for our clients and business partners.

Mr Tim White is responsible for Business Continuity. He will ensure the provision of effective resource and arrangements for the implementation of this policy.

Tim White

For and on behalf of Modus Workspace Ltd

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## 2. Site Operating Procedures

### Introduction

These are exceptional circumstances and the industry must comply with the latest Government advice on Coronavirus (Covid-19) at all times.

These Site Operating Procedures (SOP) are based on Public Health England (PHE) guidance; other restrictions and advice may apply in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The HSE is the relevant enforcing authority for PHE guidelines. If a site is not consistently implementing the measures set out by PHE, it may be subject to enforcement action.

Construction sites operating during the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic need to ensure they are protecting their workforce and minimising the risk of spread of infection. This includes considering how personnel travel to and from site.

This guidance is intended to introduce consistent measures on construction sites of all types and sizes in line with the Government's recommendations on social distancing and ensure employers and individuals make every effort to comply.

PHE guidance for construction states "where it is not possible to follow the social distancing guidelines in full in relation to a particular activity, you should consider whether that activity needs to continue for the site to continue to operate, and, if so, take all the mitigating actions possible to reduce the risk of transmission".

The health and safety requirements of any construction activity must not be compromised at this time. If an activity cannot be

undertaken safely, it should not take place.

Emergency services are also under great pressure and may not be able to respond as quickly as usual. This should be taken into consideration in the planning of work activities, first aid, fire and emergency responses.

Organisations must have in place effective arrangements for monitoring and reviewing their compliance with Government and industry guidance. Sites should also remind the workforce at every opportunity of the Site Operating Procedures which are aimed at protecting them, their colleagues, families and the UK population.

### Risk Assessments and Method Statements

Contractors must update their risk assessments and method statement to include their social distancing measures, hygiene and compliance to the latest Government guidance.

### When to Travel to Work

The Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy advised in a letter to the UK construction industry on 31 March 2020:

"that wherever possible, people should work at home. However, we know that for many people working in construction their job requires them to travel to their place of work, and they can continue to do so. This is consistent with the Chief Medical Officer's advice".

It is important to understand the following guidelines by which workers should or should not travel to work as outlined below.

### Social distancing:

Workers in the construction industry should follow the guidance on Staying at home and away from others (social distancing). Where they cannot work from home, they must follow the same principles of social distancing while travelling to and from work and while at work.

### Self-isolation:

Anyone who either has a high temperature or a new persistent cough or is within 14 days of the day when the first member of their household showed symptoms of Coronavirus (Covid-19) should not come to site, but must follow the guidance on self-isolation.

### Person at increased risk:

Anyone who is at increased risk of severe illness from Coronavirus (Covid-19) is strongly advised to work at home and should be particularly stringent about following social distancing measures.

### Persons defined on medical grounds as extremely vulnerable:

Anyone identified as extremely vulnerable will be advised by their health authority and must follow the guidance on shielding and protecting extremely vulnerable people.

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## Living with a person in one of the above groups:

Anyone living with a person who is at increased risk of severe illness, or an extremely vulnerable person who is shielding from Coronavirus (Covid-19), should stringently follow the guidance on social distancing and minimise contact outside the home.

## If someone falls ill

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

- Ensure their manager or supervisor is informed
- Return home immediately
- 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.

## Travel to Site

Wherever possible workers should travel to site alone using their own transport. If workers have no option but to share transport:

- Journeys should be shared with the same individuals and with the minimum number of people at any one time
- Good ventilation (i.e. keeping the windows open) and facing away from each other may help to reduce the risk of transmission
- The vehicle should be cleaned regularly using gloves and standard cleaning products, with particular emphasis on handles and other areas where passengers may touch surfaces

## Sites should consider:

- Parking arrangements for additional vehicles and bicycles
- Other means of transport to avoid public transport e.g. cycling
- Providing hand cleaning facilities at entrances and exits. This should be soap and water wherever possible or hand sanitiser if soap and water are not available
- How someone taken ill would get home
- Where public transport is the only option for workers, you should consider:
  - Changing and staggering site hours to reduce congestion on public transport
  - Avoid using public transport during peak times (05:45 - 7:30 and 16:00 - 17:30)

## Driving at Work

When travelling at work or between site locations, workers should

travel alone. If workers have no option but to share a vehicle, then they should:

- Share with the same individuals and with the minimum number of people at any one time
- Wherever possible maintain a distance of two metres and avoid touching their faces
- Maintain good ventilation (i.e. keeping the windows open) and face away from each other during the journey
- Wash their hands for 20 seconds using soap and water or hand sanitiser if soap and water are not available before entering and after getting out of the vehicle
- Regularly clean the vehicle using gloves and standard cleaning products, with particular emphasis on handles and other surfaces which may be touched during the journey.

## Site Access and Egress Points

- Stop all non-essential visitors
- Introduce staggered start and finish times to reduce congestion and contact at all times
- Monitor site access points to enable social distancing – you may need to change the number of access points, either increase to reduce congestion or decrease to enable monitoring, including in the case of emergencies
- Allow plenty of space between people waiting to enter site
- Use signage:
  - such as floor markings, to ensure 2 metre distance is maintained between people when queuing

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- reminding workers not to attend if they have symptoms of Coronavirus (Covid-19) and to follow guidelines
- Remove or disable entry systems that require skin contact e.g. Biosite
- The site register must be filled out by the site manager to avoid operatives having to touch the pen and paper.
- Require all workers to wash their hands for 20 seconds using soap and water when entering and leaving the site
- Regularly clean common contact surfaces in reception, office, access control and delivery areas e.g. scanners, turnstiles, screens, telephone handsets and desks, particularly during peak flow times
- Reduce the number of people in attendance at site inductions and consider holding them outdoors wherever possible
- Where loading and offloading arrangements on site will allow it, drivers should remain in their vehicles. Where drivers are required to exit their vehicle, they should wash or sanitise their hands before handling any materials
- Consider arrangements for monitoring compliance.

## Hand Washing

- Allow regular breaks to wash hands
- Provide additional hand washing facilities (e.g. pop ups) to the usual welfare facilities, particularly on a large spread out site or where there are significant numbers of personnel on site, including plant operators
- Ensure adequate supplies of soap and fresh water are readily available and kept topped up at all times

- Provide hand sanitiser (minimum 60% alcohol based) where hand washing facilities are unavailable
- Regularly clean the hand washing facilities
- Provide suitable and sufficient rubbish bins for hand towels with regular removal and disposal. Sites will need extra supplies of soap, hand sanitiser and paper towels and these should be securely stored.

## Toilet Facilities

- Restrict the number of people using toilet facilities at any one time (e.g. use a welfare attendant) and use signage, such as floor markings, to ensure 2 metre distance is maintained between people when queuing
- Wash or sanitise hands before and after using the facilities
- Enhance the cleaning regimes for toilet facilities, particularly door handles, locks and the toilet flush
- Portable toilets should be avoided wherever possible, but where in use these should be cleaned and emptied more frequently
- Provide suitable and sufficient rubbish bins for hand towels with regular removal and disposal.

## Canteens and Eating Arrangements

Where possible, workers should be encouraged to bring their own food. They should also be required to stay on site once they have entered it and avoid using local shops.

Where there are no practical alternatives, workplace canteens may remain open to provide food to staff with appropriate adjustments for social distancing. Canteens should provide a takeaway service

providing pre-prepared and wrapped food only.

- Consider increasing the number or size of facilities available on site if possible
- The capacity of each canteen or rest area should be clearly identified at the entry to each facility, and where necessary attendants provided to supervise compliance with social distancing measures
- Break times should be staggered to reduce congestion and contact at all times
- Drinking water should be provided with enhanced cleaning measures of the tap mechanism introduced
- Frequently clean surfaces that are touched regularly, using standard cleaning products e.g. kettles, refrigerators, microwaves
- Hand cleaning facilities or hand sanitiser should be available at the entrance to any room where people eat and should be used by workers when entering and leaving the area
- A distance of 2 metres should be maintained between users, wherever possible
- All rubbish should be put straight in the bin and not left for someone else to clear up
- Tables should be cleaned between each use
- Crockery, eating utensils, cups etc. should not be used unless they are disposable or are washed and dried between use
- Canteen staff should wash their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before and after handling food

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- Canteen staff and workers may use rest areas if they apply the same social distancing measures
- Consider arrangements for monitoring compliance.

## Changing Facilities, Showers and Drying Rooms

- Consider increasing the number or size of facilities available on site if possible
- Based on the size of each facility, determine how many people can use it at any one time to maintain a distance of two metres
- Restrict the number of people using these facilities at any one time e.g. use a welfare attendant
- Introduce staggered start and finish times to reduce congestion and contact at all times
- Introduce enhanced cleaning of all facilities throughout the day and at the end of each day
- Provide suitable and sufficient rubbish bins in these areas with regular removal and disposal.

## Work Planning to Avoid Close Working

In line with Public Health England (PHE) guidelines, where it is not possible to follow the social distancing guidelines in full in relation to a particular activity, you should consider whether that activity needs to continue for the site to continue to operate, and, if so, take all the mitigating actions possible to reduce the risk of transmission.

Sites and work need to be planned and organised to avoid crowding and minimise the risk of spread of infection by following PHE and HSE guidance and the advice within these Site Operating Procedures.

Sites should remind the workforce (e.g. at daily briefings) of the specific control measures necessary to protect them, their colleagues, families and the UK population.

## Hierarchy of Controls

If you are not able to work whilst maintaining a two metre distance, you should consider whether the activity should continue and, if so, risk assess it using the hierarchy of controls below and against any sector-specific guidance.

### Eliminate

- Workers who are unwell with symptoms of Coronavirus (Covid-19) should not travel to or attend the workplace
- Rearrange tasks to enable them to be done by one person, or by maintaining social distancing measures (2 metres)
- Avoid skin to skin and face to face contact
- Stairs should be used in preference to lifts or hoists and consider one ways systems
- Consider alternative or additional mechanical aids to reduce worker interface

### Site Meetings

- Only absolutely necessary meeting participants should attend
- Attendees should be at least two metres apart from each

other

- Rooms should be well ventilated / windows opened to allow fresh air circulation
- Consider holding meetings in open areas where possible

### Reduce

Where the social distancing measures (2 metres) cannot be applied:

- Minimise the frequency and time workers are within 2 metres of each other
- Minimise the number of workers involved in these tasks
- Workers should work side by side, or facing away from each other, rather than face to face
- Lower the worker capacity of lifts and hoists to reduce congestion and contact at all times
- Regularly clean common touchpoints, doors, buttons, handles, vehicle cabs, tools, equipment etc.
- Increase ventilation in enclosed spaces

Workers should wash their hands before and after using any equipment

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## Isolate

Keep groups of workers that have to work within 2 metres:

- Together in teams e.g. (do not change workers within teams)
- As small as possible
- Away from other workers where possible

## Control

Where face to face working is essential to carry out a task when working within 2 metres:

- Keep this to 15 minutes or less where possible
- Consider introducing an enhanced authorisation process for these activities
- Provide additional supervision to monitor and manage compliance

## PPE

Sites should not use RPE for Coronavirus (Covid-19) where the two metre social distancing guidelines are met.

- Where it is not possible to maintain a two metre distance, each activity should be risk assessed using the hierarchy of controls and against any sector-specific guidance, mindful that masks (RPE) are the last resort in the hierarchy

- Re-usable PPE should be thoroughly cleaned after use and not shared between workers
- Single use PPE should be disposed of so that it cannot be reused
- Where personnel are required to work in specific environments (e.g. where persons are shielding, with symptoms, or confirmed Coronavirus (Covid-19) cases may be present e.g. healthcare or in a home environment) additional PPE should be considered specific to the Coronavirus (Covid-19) risk

## Behaviours

The measures necessary to minimise the risk of spread of infection rely on everyone in the industry taking responsibility for their actions and behaviours.

Please encourage an open and collaborative approach between workers and employers on site where any issues can be openly discussed and addressed.

First Aid Response (Updated advice from GOV.UK, HSE.GOV.UK & Resuscitation Council UK)

The primary responsibility is to preserve life and first aid should be administered if required and until the emergency services attend.

- When planning site activities, the provision of adequate first aid resources must be agreed between the relevant parties on site
- Emergency plans including contact details should be kept up to date
- Consideration must also be given to potential delays in emergency services response, due to the current pressure on resources
- Consider preventing or rescheduling high-risk work or providing additional competent first aid or trauma resources.
- In the event of a minor accident on site, a trained first aiders should wear disposable gloves, face mask and eye protection before treating an injured person.
- At all times follow the training provided for First Aid at Work (FAW) or Emergency First Aid at Work (EFAW)
- After contact with the injured person, wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water or alcohol hand rub at the earliest opportunity.
- Avoid touching your mouth, eyes and/or nose, unless you have recently cleaned your hands after having contact with the injured person.
- In all other accidents call the emergency services.
- Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Recognise cardiac arrest by looking for the absence of signs of life and the absence of

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normal breathing. Do not listen or feel for breathing by placing your ear and cheek close to the casualty's mouth.

- If you are in any doubt about confirming cardiac arrest, the default position is to start compression only CPR until help arrives.
- Make sure an ambulance is on its way. If COVID-19 is suspected, tell them when you call 999.
- The first aid person should record the accident, incident or near miss. Follow reporting procedures in Appendix 5 of the Construction Safety Plan and HS-P04 Accident Reporting.
- If you hold a first aid certificate that expires on or after 16 March 2020 and cannot access requalification training because of coronavirus you may qualify for a 3-month extension. This applies to: (FAW) & (EFAW)

## Cleaning

Enhanced cleaning procedures should be in place across the site, particularly in communal areas and at touch points including:

- Taps and washing facilities
- Toilet flush and seats
- Door handles and push plates
- Hand rails on staircases and corridors
- Lift and hoist controls
- Machinery and equipment controls

- All areas used for eating must be thoroughly cleaned at the end of each break and shift, including chairs, door handles, vending machines and payment devices.
- Telephone equipment
- Key boards, photocopiers and other office equipment
- Rubbish collection and storage points should be increased and emptied regularly throughout and at the end of each day

## Prevent coronavirus

