



COVID-19 Update for UK Employees | 02/02/2021

Surge Testing to Monitor and Suppress the Spread of COVID-19 Variant

Naturally, some concern has been expressed following media reports about the spread of the COVID-19 variant first identified in South Africa, which while potentially more virulent hasn't proven to be more serious than others. The Government have announced additional surge testing and sequencing is being rolled out in a number of locations where the COVID-19 variant has been found, including areas covered by the following postcodes:

- East of England (EN10)
- London (W7, N17, CR4)
- North West (PR9)
- South East (ME15, GU21)
- West Midlands (WS2)

Further areas are expected to be added to the list for surge testing soon.

In line with Government Guidance, we are encouraging employees and contractors living in these areas to take a COVID test this week, whether they are showing symptoms or not. It has been reported that mobile testing units will be deployed offering PCR testing to people without symptoms who have to leave their home for work or essential reasons, with local authorities encouraging people to get tested in the area by providing additional home test kits.

People with symptoms should book a test in the usual way and people without symptoms should visit their local authority website for more information; positive tests will be used to identify any further spread of the COVID-19 variant, enabling a better understanding of the variant and highlighting if there are any more cases of this particular strand of the virus in the area.

Those living in the designated areas are being encouraged to limit time away from home, including working from home where possible; obviously this is not possible for many of our employees and operations, where this is the case, we ask you to continue to be particularly careful to follow the Behaviours that Save Lives, in and outside of work, and to ensure strict compliance with the COVID protocols.

Please remember, if you test positive, have any symptoms, or are traced following contact with someone who tests positive, you should self-isolate immediately and advise your line manager.

Thankfully, it is being reported that the regulated vaccines still offer a good level of immunity from this variant of the virus.

Employee Assistance Programme

Free, confidential support and counselling available for all employees

If you're worried about a work, family or personal issue then the Employee Assistance Programme can help, 24/7.

Support with everything from consumer rights to bereavement, depression & anxiety to childcare.

Visit www.lifestyle-support.co.uk (username: cemex / password: cemex) or call 0808 1682143

