

COVID-19 Update for UK Employees | 05/03/2021

Updated advice on ventilation and air conditioning from HSE

The HSE has updated and expanded its advice to help site managers provide adequate ventilation in their workplaces during the pandemic.

This guidance builds on helping you to identify and take action in poorly ventilated areas. It also provides guidance on other factors to consider when assessing the risk from aerosol transmission, and determining whether adequate ventilation is being provided to reduce this risk.

You should be maximising the fresh air in a space and this can be done by:

- [natural ventilation](#) which relies on passive air flow through windows, doors and air vents that can be fully or partially opened
- [mechanical ventilation](#) using fans and ducts to bring in fresh air from outside, or
- a combination of natural and mechanical ventilation, for example where mechanical ventilation relies on natural ventilation to maximise fresh air

Please read the [updated guidance](#) and find out how you can provide adequate ventilation in your workplace, helping to protect workers and other people from transmission of coronavirus.

Rapid Testing for all Households with Children

As schools return from 8 March, the Government has advised that whole families and households in England with primary school, secondary school and college age children, including childcare and support bubbles, will be able to test themselves twice every week from home.

The reopening of schools is the first stage in the government's roadmap for leading the country out of lockdown restrictions. As part of this, they have this week confirmed the details for rapid testing for families, including:

- Testing for secondary school and college students twice a week, with three initial tests at school or college before transitioning to twice weekly home testing
 - Primary school children will not be regularly asymptotically tested due to low levels of transmission between younger aged children but will continue to need to come forward for tests if they have symptoms.
- Twice-weekly testing using rapid lateral flow tests given for free to all families and households with primary, secondary school and college aged children and young people, including childcare and support bubbles
- Twice-weekly testing will also be offered to adults working in the wider school community, including bus drivers and after school club leaders.

This testing will help to uncover hidden cases of the virus and support the reopening of schools and other parts of our society as we progress through the roadmap.

For further information about the government's plan for testing for schoolchildren, visit [here](#).

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