

COVID-19 Update for UK Employees | 11/10/2022

Rising numbers of Covid cases in the business

Over the last week we have seen an increase in the number of Covid cases reported in the business. As you can see from the graph below, last week there were 25 new cases reported, a considerable jump on previous weeks.



It may be that as the weather gets colder we are seeing the start of a spike in cases of the virus. For this reason we wanted to remind all employees of the need to be vigilant and do what they can to minimise the risk of the virus spreading – please continue to maintain good hand washing and sanitising practices, and ensure ventilation of enclosed spaces.

<u>In particular, please remember if you have symptoms or test positive for Coronavirus, do not come into work</u> – this is very important as it will help reduce the risk of your colleagues, contractors and those around you coming into contact with the virus. Please be considerate of others and remember the increased threat to those who have a compromised immune system.

The NHS advise that, if you have COVID-19, you can pass on the virus to other people for up to 10 days from when your infection starts. Many people will no longer be infectious to others after 5 days. **You should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days.** Avoid meeting people at higher risk from COVID-19 for 10 days, especially if their immune system means they're at higher probability of serious illness from COVID-19, even if they've had a COVID-19 vaccine. This starts from the day after you did the test.

If you are feeling unwell and do not test positive for COVID-19 and do not feel well enough to go to work and do your normal activities, you should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people. Avoid meeting people at higher risk from COVID-19, especially if their immune system means they're at higher risk of serious illness from COVID-19, even if they've had a COVID-19 vaccine You can go back to your normal activities if you feel well enough to do so and do not have a high temperature.

With increasing concerns about the possibility of both flu and COVID outbreaks, we would encourage everyone to take up the flu vaccine and autumn COVID booster where applicable; we have seen that getting vaccinated is one of the most effective things we can do to look after ourselves and each other.

Please also remember that all cases of Coronavirus must be notified to your Line Manager and the Health & Safety team at the earliest opportunity. This procedure still applies to those who are working remotely, even if they do not need to be absent from work.

All COVID-19 related absences / self-isolation should be logged via the dedicated online form, accessible **here**, and absences recorded on SAP as you would do normally.