# Coronavirus Risk Assessment for Labs and Research Facilities

This template risk assessment is intended to help you document the risk control measures you have introduced within the workplace to control the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). It is not a Business Continuity Plan.

You must modify this risk assessment to ensure it reflects your business activities and the specific risks and controls you have in place.

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| Location/Dept: | | | | | | Date Assessed: | Assessed by: | | | |
| Task/Activity:  Working in labs and research facilities during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic | | | | | |  | Reference Number: | | | |
|  | | | Risk rating before implementing control measures | | |  | Risk rating after implementing control measures | | |  |
| Activity/Task | Hazard/Risk | Person at Risk | Likelihood  (1-5) | Severity  (1-5) | Risk/ Priority | Control Measures in Place | Likelihood  (1-5) | Severity  (1-5) | Risk/ Priority | Additional Control Measures Required |
| Working in a lab or research facility | Contact with persons suffering from coronavirus | Employees  Contractors  Visitors | 5 | 5 | 25 | Emergency Action Plan (EAP) in place and communicated to all members of staff and visitors, including what symptoms to look out for and what action to take. EAP to be displayed in visible areas around the workplace.  All members of staff instructed to follow government guidance on self-isolating and adhere to advice given.  The business is taking part in the government testing program and will test asymptomatic employees twice weekly. A separate risk assessment has been completed for the testing area / workers will receive home testing kits and will be expected to inform the business of their results.  Employees will be given time away from the workplace to receive a COVID vaccine when they have been invited to attend. Where eligible, employees are strongly recommended to take part in the government’s vaccination programme for COVID-19 to prevent the spread of the virus and help to protect everyone within the workplace.    If it becomes law to check the COVID status of customers or visitors coming into the premises, we will follow the government instructions regarding NHS COVID Passes and other accepted proof.  Wherever possible, we will minimise the time workers spend in the office and will request that they work from home whenever possible.  Employees that have been vaccinated must continue to follow COVID-19 control measures until further notice from the government is provided.  Steps have been taken to avoid people needing to unduly raise their voices to each other.  Where eligible, employees are strongly recommended to take part in the government’s testing programme for COVID-19 and ensure that the results are communicated to senior management. If the test results reveal that the individual has contracted COVID-19, action will be taken as prescribed in the Emergency Action Plan and a decision will be made on when they can return to work.  WorkNest’s Return to Work Form to be completed when an employee returns from self-isolating or has been diagnosed with COVID-19.  Employees encouraged to download NHS COVID-19 app on personal phones and follow instructions received when it is available.  Employees instructed to download NHS COVID-19 app on their business phone, use during working hours and follow instructions received when it is available.  Once symptomatic, all surfaces that the person has come into contact with must be cleaned, including:   * All surfaces and objects which are visibly contaminated with body fluids; and * All potentially contaminated high-contact areas such as toilets, door handles, telephones, etc.   Public areas where a symptomatic individual has passed through and spent minimal time in (such as corridors) but which are not visibly contaminated with bodily fluids do not need to be specially cleaned and disinfected.  If a person becomes ill in a shared space, these should be cleaned using disposable cloths and household detergents, according to current recommended workplace legislation and practice. |  | 5 |  | Guidance and recommended risk control measures will be sourced directly from the GOV.UK website wherever possible.  <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19>  Control measures will be revised and updated on a regular basis. |
| Working in a lab or research facility | Contact with persons who may have been exposed to coronavirus – foreign travel | Employees  Contractors  Visitors | 5 | 5 | 25 | Employees who are suspected to have coronavirus are to quarantine themselves in accordance with the government guidance.  Other persons who may have been exposed to coronavirus have been instructed by the government guidance to quarantine themselves.  Employees who have returned from a country which is not on the government’s [list of travel corridors](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-travel-corridors) should quarantine themselves, even if they do not show any symptoms. |  | 5 |  | Guidance and recommended risk control measures will be sourced directly from the GOV.UK website wherever possible.  <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19>  Control measures will be revised and updated on a regular basis. |
| Working in a lab or research facility | Contact with persons who may have been exposed to coronavirus | Employees  Contractors  Visitors | 5 | 5 | 25 | Undertake WorkNest’s COVID-19 Daily Cleaning Checklist.  Communication and training materials will be provided for employees prior to returning to site, especially around new procedures for arrival at work.  ‘Staying COVID-19 Secure’ poster to be displayed at entrance.  Anyone who can work from home will be asked to do so. Where this cannot be done, the minimum amount of people will be asked to work on site.  Employees who fall into the vulnerable, clinically vulnerable and clinically extremely vulnerable categories will be assessed and provisions made accordingly.  The business will aim to maintain two-metre social distancing wherever possible, including while arriving at and departing from work, while in work, and when travelling between sites.  In an emergency, for example an accident or fire, people do not have to stay two metres apart if it would be unsafe.  People involved in the provision of assistance to others will pay attention to sanitation measures immediately afterwards, including washing hands.  Where social distancing guidelines cannot be followed in full in relation to a particular activity, it will be considered whether that activity needs to continue for the business to operate and, if so, we will take all the mitigating actions possible to reduce the risk of transmission between staff. Further mitigating actions include:   * Increasing the frequency of handwashing 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; and * 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).   Staggered arrival and departure times will be implemented to reduce crowding into and out of the workplace, taking account of the impact on those with protected characteristics.  Additional parking and facilities such as bike racks to help people walk, run, or cycle to work where possible will be provided.  Passengers in corporate vehicles will be limited and will include leaving seats empty.  We will aim to reduce congestion, for example by having more entry points to the workplace.  The business will provide storage for workers’ clothes and bags.  The business will use markings and introduce one-way flow at entry and exit points.  The business will provide handwashing facilities, or hand sanitiser where not possible, at entry and exit points and will not use touch-based security devices such as keypads.  The business will provide alternatives to touch-based security devices such as keypads.  The business will provide alternatives for entry/exit points where appropriate, for example deactivating turnstiles requiring pass checks in favour of showing a pass to security personnel at a distance.  The businesses will service or adjust ventilation systems, for example so that they do not automatically reduce ventilation levels due to lower than normal occupancy levels. We will use the [HSE’s guidance on ventilation and air conditioning during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic](https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/equipment-and-machinery/air-conditioning-and-ventilation/index.htm) and assess areas with low ventilation.  Where systems serve multiple buildings, or we are unsure, advice will be sought from the heating ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) engineers or advisers.  The business will open windows and doors frequently to encourage ventilation, where possible. |  | 5 |  | Guidance and recommended risk control measures will be sourced directly from the GOV.UK website wherever possible.  <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19>  Control measures will be revised and updated on a regular basis. |
| Working in a lab or research facility | Contact with persons suffering from coronavirus – moving around buildings and worksites | Employees  Contractors  Visitors | 5 | 5 | 25 | The business will look to reduce contact with others by:   * Reducing movement by discouraging non-essential trips within buildings and sites, for example restricting access to some areas, encouraging the use of radios or telephones, where permitted, and cleaning them between use; * Restricting access between different areas of a building or site; * Reducing job and location rotation; * Introducing more one-way flow through buildings; * Reducing maximum occupancy for lifts, providing hand sanitiser for the operation of lifts and encouraging the use of stairs wherever possible; * Making sure that people with disabilities can access lifts; * Reducing maximum occupancy for lifts, providing hand sanitiser for the operation of lifts and encouraging the use of stairs wherever possible; and * Regulating the use of high-traffic areas, including corridors, lifts turnstiles and walkways, to maintain social distancing |  | 5 |  | Guidance and recommended risk control measures will be sourced directly from the GOV.UK website wherever possible.  <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19>  Control measures will be revised and updated on a regular basis. |
| Working in a lab or research facility | Contact with packages or items handled by persons who may have been exposed to coronavirus | Employees  Contractors  Visitors | 5 | 5 | 25 | The business will look to reduce contact with others by:   * Reviewing layouts and processes to allow people to work further apart from each other; * Using floor tape or paint to mark areas to help workers keep to a two-metre distance; * Only where it is not possible to move workstations further apart, arranging for people to work side-by-side or facing away from each other rather than face-to-face; * Only where it is not possible to move workstations further apart, using screens to separate people from each other; * Managing occupancy levels to enable social distancing; and * Avoiding the use of hot desks and spaces and, where not possible (for example, call centres or training facilities), cleaning and sanitising workstations between different occupants, including shared equipment. |  | 5 |  | Guidance and recommended risk control measures will be sourced directly from the GOV.UK website wherever possible.  <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19>  Control measures will be revised and updated on a regular basis. |
| Working in a lab or research facility | Disposal of waste that may be contaminated by a coronavirus sufferer/member of the public, i.e. public waste bins, personal protective equipment (PPE), etc. | Employees  Contractors  Visitors | 5 | 5 | 25 | All waste that has been in contact with the relevant person, including used tissues, and masks if used, should be put in a plastic rubbish bag and tied when full. The plastic bag should then be placed in a second bin bag and tied and disposed of as hazardous waste in line with normal infection prevention control policies and procedures. |  | 5 |  | Guidance and recommended risk control measures will be sourced directly from the GOV.UK website wherever possible.  <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19>  Control measures will be revised and updated on a regular basis. |
| Working in a lab or research facility | Contact with persons suffering from coronavirus – meetings | Employees  Contractors  Visitors | 5 | 5 | 25 | The business will look to reduce contact with others by:   * Using remote working tools to avoid in-person meetings; * Allowing only absolutely necessary participants to attend meetings and maintaining two-metre separation throughout; * Avoiding transmission during meetings, for example by avoiding sharing pens and other objects; * Providing hand sanitiser in meeting rooms; * Holding meetings outdoors or in well-ventilated rooms whenever possible; and * For areas where regular meetings take place, using floor signage to help people maintain social distancing. |  | 5 |  | Guidance and recommended risk control measures will be sourced directly from the GOV.UK website wherever possible.  <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19>  Control measures will be revised and updated on a regular basis. |
| Working the lab or research facility | Contact with persons suffering from coronavirus – workstations | Employees  Contractors  Visitors | 5 | 5 | 25 | The business will look to reduce contact with others by:   * Using remote working tools to avoid in-person meetings; * Allowing only necessary participants to attend meetings and maintaining two-metre separation throughout; * Avoiding transmission during meetings, for example by avoiding sharing pens and other objects; * Providing hand sanitiser in meeting rooms; * Holding meetings outdoors or in well-ventilated rooms whenever possible; and * For areas where regular meetings take place, using floor signage to help people maintain social distancing. |  | 5 |  | Guidance and recommended risk control measures will be sourced directly from the GOV.UK website wherever possible.  <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19>  Control measures will be revised and updated on a regular basis. |
| Working in a lab or research facility | Contact with persons suffering from coronavirus – common areas | Employees  Contractors  Visitors | 5 | 5 | 25 | The business will look to reduce contact with others by:   * Working collaboratively with landlords and other tenants in multi-tenant sites/buildings to ensure consistency across common areas, for example receptions, staircases; * Staggering break times to reduce pressure on break rooms or canteens; * Using safe outside areas for breaks; * Creating additional space by using other parts of the workplace or building that have been freed up by remote working; * Installing screens to protect staff in receptions or similar areas; * Reconfiguring seating and tables to maintain spacing and reduce face-to-face interactions; * Encouraging staff to remain on-site and, when not possible, maintain social distancing while off-site; * Regulating the use of locker rooms, changing areas and other facility areas to reduce concurrent usage; and * Encouraging storage of personal items and clothing in personal storage spaces, for example lockers and during shifts. |  | 5 |  | Guidance and recommended risk control measures will be sourced directly from the GOV.UK website wherever possible.  <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19>  Control measures will be revised and updated on a regular basis. |
| Working in a lab or research facility | Contact with persons suffering from coronavirus – visitors and contractors | Employees  Contractors  Visitors | 5 | 5 | 25 | The business will look to reduce contact with others by:   * Encouraging visits via remote connection/working where this is an option; * Where site visits are required, explaining site guidance on social distancing and hygiene to visitors on or before arrival; * Limiting the number of visitors at any one time; * Limiting visitor times to a specific time window and restricting access to required visitors only; * Determining if schedules for essential services and contractor visits can be revised to reduce interaction and overlap between people, for example carrying out services at night; * Maintaining a record of all visitors, if this is practical; * Revising visitor arrangements to ensure social distancing and hygiene, for example where someone physically signs in with the same pen in receptions; * Providing clear guidance on social distancing and hygiene to people on arrival (for example, signage or visual aids) and before arrival (for example, by phone, on the website or by email); * Establishing host responsibilities relating to COVID-19 and providing any necessary training for people who act as hosts for visitors; * Reviewing entry and exit routes for visitors and contractors to minimise contact with other people; and * Coordinating and working collaboratively with landlords and other tenants in multi-tenant sites, for example shared working spaces. |  | 5 |  | Guidance and recommended risk control measures will be sourced directly from the GOV.UK website wherever possible.  <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19>  Control measures will be revised and updated on a regular basis. |
| Working in a lab or research facility | Contact with persons suffering from coronavirus – visitors and contractors | Employees  Contractors  Visitors | 5 | 5 | 25 | The business will look to improve hygiene between others by:   * Using signs and posters to build awareness of good handwashing technique, as well as the need to increase handwashing frequency, avoid touching your face and to cough or sneeze into a tissue which is binned safely, or into your arm if a tissue is not available; * Providing regular reminders and signage to maintain personal hygiene standards; * Providing hand sanitiser in multiple locations in addition to washrooms; * Setting clear use and cleaning guidance for toilets to ensure they are kept clean and social distancing is achieved as much as possible; * Introducing enhanced cleaning for busy areas; * Providing more waste facilities and more frequent rubbish collection; * Where possible, providing paper towels as an alternative to hand dryers in handwashing facilities; and * Introducing enhanced cleaning of all facilities regularly during the day and at the end of the day. |  | 5 |  | Guidance and recommended risk control measures will be sourced directly from the GOV.UK website wherever possible.  <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19>  Control measures will be revised and updated on a regular basis. |
| Working in a lab or research facility | Contact with persons suffering from coronavirus – contact with objects that come into the workplace and vehicles at the worksite | Employees  Contractors  Visitors | 5 | 5 | 25 | The business will introduce:   * Cleaning procedures for goods and merchandise entering the site; * Cleaning procedures for vehicles; * Greater handwashing and handwashing facilities for workers handling goods and merchandise and provide hand sanitiser where this is not practical; * Regular cleaning of vehicles that workers may take home; and * Restrictions on non-business deliveries, for example personal deliveries to workers. |  | 5 |  | Guidance and recommended risk control measures will be sourced directly from the GOV.UK website wherever possible.  <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19>  Control measures will be revised and updated on a regular basis. |
| Working in a lab or research facility | Contact with persons suffering from coronavirus – wearing of PPE | Employees  Contractors  Visitors | 5 | 5 | 25 | Existing PPE worn in a work activity to protect against non-COVID-19 risks should continue to be worn.  Wherever it is required by law that face coverings are worn, we will request that all persons wear these, unless medically exempt.  All visitors, including contractors and members of the public, will be encouraged to wear a face covering when entering the premises unless medically exempt or exempt under the regulations.  Employees using face coverings will be encouraged to:   * Wash their hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser before putting a face covering on, and after removing it. * When wearing a face covering, avoid touching their face or face covering, as it could contaminate them with germs from their hands. * Change their face covering if it becomes damp or if they have touched it. * Continue to wash their hands regularly. * Change and wash face coverings daily. * If the material is washable, wash in line with manufacturer’s instructions. If it is not washable, dispose of it carefully in your usual waste. * Practise social distancing wherever possible. |  | 5 |  | Guidance and recommended risk control measures will be sourced directly from the GOV.UK website wherever possible.  <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19>  Control measures will be revised and updated on a regular basis. |
| Working in a lab or research facility | Contact with persons suffering from coronavirus – shift patterns and travel to work | Employees  Contractors  Visitors | 5 | 5 | 25 | The business will:   * As far as possible, where staff are split into teams or shift groups, fix these teams or shift groups so that, where contact is unavoidable, this happens between the same people. * Minimise non-essential travel. * Minimise the number of people travelling together in any one vehicle, using fixed travel partners, increasing ventilation where possible and avoiding sitting face-to-face. * Clean shared vehicles between shifts or on handover. * Where workers are required to stay away from their home, centrally log the stay and make sure any overnight accommodation meets social distancing guidelines. |  | 5 |  | Guidance and recommended risk control measures will be sourced directly from the GOV.UK website wherever possible.  <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19>  Control measures will be revised and updated on a regular basis. |
| Working in a lab or research facility | Contracting and spreading of infection | Employees  Contractors  Visitors | 5 | 5 | 25 | Basic infection controls should be followed as recommended by the government:   * Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze. * Put used tissues in the bin straightaway. * Wash your hands with soap and water often – use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available. * Try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell. * Clean and disinfect frequently-touched objects and surfaces. * Do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean.   Persons worried about symptoms should use the NHS 111, only call if they cannot get help online, and NOT go to their GP or other healthcare centre. |  | 5 |  | Guidance and recommended risk control measures will be sourced directly from the GOV.UK website wherever possible.  <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19>  Control measures will be revised and updated on a regular basis. |
| Working in a lab or research facility | Contact with visitors/contactors to site | Employees  Contractors  Visitors | 5 | 5 | 25 | The business will look to reduce contact with others by:   * Encouraging visits via remote connection/working where this is an option; * Where site visits are required, explaining site guidance on social distancing and hygiene to visitors on or before arrival; * Limiting the number of visitors at any one time; * Limiting visitor times to a specific time window and restricting access to required visitors only; * Determining if schedules for essential services and contractor visits can be revised to reduce interaction and overlap between people, for example carrying out services at night; * Maintaining a record of all visitors, if this is practical; * Revising visitor arrangements to ensure social distancing and hygiene, for example where someone physically signs in with the same pen in receptions; * Providing clear guidance on social distancing and hygiene to people on arrival (for example, signage or visual aids) and before arrival (for example, by phone, on the website or by email); * Establishing host responsibilities relating to COVID-19 and providing any necessary training for people who act as hosts for visitors; * Reviewing entry and exit routes for visitors and contractors to minimise contact with other people; and * Coordinating and working collaboratively with landlords and other tenants in multi-tenant sites, for example shared working spaces   All contractors expected to complete the Contractor Checklist found on the WorkNest Coronavirus Advice Hub.  Contractors only allowed on site if the work cannot be completed at another time.  Contractors instructed to keep two metres away from all other persons at all times.  Contractors provided with handwashing facilities.  Contractors supervised at all times. |  | 5 |  |  |

## Risk/Priority Indicator Key

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| Likelihood |  | RISK / PRIORITY INDICATOR MATRIX | | | | | | |
| 1. Improbable / very unlikely |  | LIKELIHOOD | 5 | 5 | 10 | 15 | 20 | 25 |
| 2. Unlikely |  | 4 | 4 | 8 | 12 | 16 | 20 |
| 3. Even chance / may happen |  | 3 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 12 | 15 |
| 4. Likely |  | 2 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 10 |
| 5. Almost certain / imminent |  | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|  |  |  | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Severity (Consequence) |  | SEVERITY (CONSEQUENCE) | | | | |
| 1. Negligible (delay only) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2. Slight (minor injury / damage / interruption) |  | Summary | | Suggested Timeframe | | | | |
| 3. Moderate (lost time injury, illness, damage, lost care provider) |  | 12-25 | High | As soon as possible | | | | |
| 4. High (major injury / damage, lost time care provider interruption, disablement) |  | 6-11 | Medium | Within the next three to six months | | | | |
| 5. Very High (fatality / care provider closure) |  | 1-5 | Low | Whenever viable to do so | | | | |

## Review Record

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| Date of Review |  | Confirmed by |  | Comments |
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I have read the risk assessment and understand and accept its contents form part of my job role. I will keep myself informed of any changes.

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| Employee Name (Print) |  | Employee Signature |  | Date |
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