

Environmental and Waste Management Group



May 2020 Newsletter

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

Guidance and support continue to evolve through the pandemic and increasingly now focus on supporting new ways of working as 'lockdown' restrictions ease; these remain exceptional circumstances and we must comply with our government advice on coronavirus at all times. The following highlights some key guidance available at the start of May.

UK GOVERNMENT RECOVERY STRATEGY

UK government roadmap to recovery guidance – Our plan to rebuild: The UK Government's COVID-19 recovery strategy

The UK government has released its detailed roadmap to recovery plan to ease lockdown measures in England. The document describes the progress the UK has made to date in tackling the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and sets out the plans for moving to the next phase of its response to the virus.

The strategy sets out a cautious roadmap to easing existing measures in a safe and measured way, subject to successfully controlling the virus and being able to monitor and react to its spread. The roadmap will be kept constantly under review as the epidemic, and the world's understanding of it, develops. The plan and additional guidance can be found here –

- [Our plan to rebuild: The UK Government's COVID-19 recovery strategy](#)
- [Guidance: Staying alert and safe \(social distancing\)](#)
- [Guidance: Staying safe outside your home](#)

OTHER GOVERNMENTAL INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE

The Department of Health & Social Care (DHSC) and Public Health England (PHE) are leading the **UK government response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak**. Guidance and up-to-date information on what you need to do is available on – [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk). A listing of guidance is available [here](#), including [Working Safely During Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

Information from the Scottish government – Information and guidance from the Scottish Government related to the COVID-19 outbreak – [gov.scot](https://www.gov.scot)

Information from the Northern Ireland assembly – Important Information on COVID-19 on the NI Direct website – nidirect.gov.uk

The latest information from the Welsh government – The latest advice for COVID-19 – [gov.wales](https://www.gov.wales)

IOSH INFORMATION AND SUPPORT

Information from IOSH on going back to work safely

IOSH has created new guidance for you on how businesses can ensure the reopening of workplaces is done safely, to ensure they don't become places of transmission. Its attention is also on continuing to assure high levels of safety, health and wellbeing as 'normal' operations become more complex – [iosh.com](https://www.iosh.com)

Recorded IOSH Webinar: Covid-19– the role of the OSH and HR professionals

The latest IOSH Covid-19 webinar, *Returning to work after Covid-19: the role of OSH professionals* on Thursday 7 May marked the sixth in IOSH's ongoing series delivering the best-available organisational responses to Covid-19 and the global challenges we face with disparities in work culture.

Hosted by, James Quinn, IOSH President Elect and presenters: Malcolm Shiels, Chair IOSH Construction Group, Director Head of CDM Summers-Inman Ltd, Keith Hole, Vice Chair IOSH Construction Group, Director and Thought Leader TSM UK and David D'Souza, Director of Membership, Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development.

The webinar provided delegates with an understanding of the factors involved in returning to work without jeopardising productivity or safety. To watch the webinar in full including access to the Q&A click [here](#).

World Health Organisation and International Labour Organization COVID-19 survey

IOSH is supporting the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) in collecting data about the risk factors and their controls for the health and safety of health workers during COVID-19. You can take the survey, available in eight languages [here](#).

SELECTED INDUSTRY AND SECTOR GUIDANCE

The **Health & Safety Executive** (HSE) website has the latest guidance and information for employers and employees [Health & Safety Executive – Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): latest information and advice](#).

Waste Industry Safety and Health (WISH) Forum note on COVID-19 and Waste management Activities

WISH has issued the fourth version of its information note - [COVID19 and waste management activities issue 4](#) and the changes from the last version include –

- Adverse reaction towards those returning to work (concern about still carrying infection) and training for returning employees – due to changes made in their absence
- Home-laundering of workwear, masks/face-coverings used for reassurance rather than protective reasons, testing for essential workers and first aid provision
- Recommencement of services involving going onto third party sites, such as commercial waste collections at customer sites, and further guidance on reopening HWRC/CA sites
- Addition of COVID-19 issues to routine inspections and monitoring, fly-tipped wastes, use of precautions for cabs and crew and used PPE from the public being disposed of into recycling waste streams rather than residual streams

Managing Household Waste and Recycling Centres (HWRCs) in England during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic

Defra has published [new guidance](#) for local authorities on how they can safely re-open their Household Waste and Recycling Centres (HWRCs) during the coronavirus outbreak. Councils are being encouraged to open sites to avoid the build-up of waste in homes and businesses and reduce the opportunity for fly-tipping – but only where social distancing can be maintained and the public and staff can be kept safe.

A supporting video on social media can be found [here](#).

Local authority networks issue guidance on reopening HWRCs

Led by the National Association of Waste Disposal Officers (NAWDO), local authority network groups including the Local Authority Recycling Advisory committee (LARAC), Assistant Directors of Economy, Environment, Planning and Transport (ADEPT) and London Waste Advisory Recycling Board (LWARB) have published the '[Coronavirus – Restarting Household Waste Recycling Centre Service](#)' guidance. (Read more: [circularonline.co.uk](#))

Social distancing in the workplace during coronavirus (COVID-19): sector guidance

The department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy has provided [advice for employers on social distancing during coronavirus](#) (COVID-19), including for those in the waste management sector.

British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS) return to work guidance

BOHS have worked with an expert body of scientists and practitioners to issue guidance for its members to help them advise on addressing the direct and indirect consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic in the work environment.

The guide is aimed at those with the responsibility of protecting the immediate and long-term health of their staff, to prioritise and plan, provide specific guidance on the actions to take and signpost to other useful resources that they can access. Topics covered in this guidance include –

- A risk-based approach to restarting work
- Covid-19 control risk assessment
- Safe restart protocols
- A list of handy downloadable resources

The Return to Work Guide can be downloaded directly from BOHS [here](#).

Environment Agency regulatory response to coronavirus (COVID-19)

The Environment Agency has posted an [operational update](#), which includes and additional Regulatory Position Statement: [COVID-19 and storing waste at unpermitted sites due to exceeding your storage limits: RPS C17](#)

Other sources of relevant information include –

- [Public Health England \(PHE\) – COVID-19: background information](#)
- [World Health Organisation \(WHO\) – COVID-19](#)
- [Circularonline coronavirus update – waste management sector](#)