

# SAFETY MATTERS

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Bulletin 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020



Facilities  
Management

## A Collective effort

To date, every G4S FM employee have adapted with professionalism and integrity to the demands COVID-19 has placed on us all. The UK now needs to prepare for an extended period of living with and managing the threat from the virus; this will continue to require everyone's support and adherence



## Government's road map out of lockdown

The threat from COVID-19 remains and is a collective threat; the responsibility to keep everyone safe is one every one of us shares.

As you will have seen on the news, the Government has shared details of it's "Road map out of lock down". As the Government begins to adjust social restrictions, it requires everyone to act thoughtfully and responsibly.

If, as restrictions are lifted, everyone chooses to act cautiously and in line with the revised guidance, the rate of transmission will decline further, and the Government can lift more restrictions.

The Government will be monitoring the "R" or "Reproduction number.

This effort must however be a shared and collective one; only a small number of new outbreaks would cause R to rise and require the re-introduction of some restrictions.

## What is the "R" or "Reproduction number?"

In an epidemic, one of the most important numbers is "R" - the reproduction number.

The "R" value describes the average number of people an infected individual can expect to pass the coronavirus onto. It is therefore a measure of how transmissible, or contagious, a disease is.

If a virus has an "R" of three, it means that every person infected will pass the disease onto three other people. If this is below one, then on average each infected person will infect fewer than one other person.

When R is above one, the number of new infections is accelerating - the higher the number the faster the virus spreads through the population.

**We all need to work collectively to keep the "R" number below one**



HELP STOP  
COVID-19



Maintain  
a safe  
distance



Wash  
your hands  
regularly



Avoid  
touching  
your face



Catch  
your coughs  
and sneezes



Follow  
guidelines  
and stay safe

### The Government's smarter controls

We need to minimise the spread of the virus through continuing good hygiene practices: hand washing, social distancing and regular disinfecting of touch points. These will be in place for some time.

- The number of social contacts we make each day must continue to be limited
- If you can work from home, you **must continue** to work from home
- Exposure of vulnerable groups must continue to be reduced
- Symptomatic and diagnosed people, plus members of their households, must still self-isolate and not put others at risk.

Over time, social contact will become less infectious by:

- ✓ Making such contact safer (including by redesigning public and work spaces, and those with symptoms self-isolating) to reduce the chance of infection per contact;
- ✓ Reducing infected people's social contact by using testing, tracing and monitoring of the infection to better focus restrictions according to risk; and
- ✓ Stopping hotspots developing by detecting infection outbreaks at a more localised level and rapidly intervening with targeted measures.
- ✓ Employers following "COVID Secure" guidelines produced by the Government

### Avoiding complacency

It feels like COVID-19 has been around a long time now, and we have accepted it as part of our everyday lives both at work and at home. However, we all must avoid complacency with COVID-19 to help our families, our colleagues and ourselves.

- Follow all social distancing guidelines and limit social contact
- Work from home if it is possible
- Remembering to wash your hands frequently for at least 20 secs with soap and water
- Self-isolate if you or a member of your household shows symptoms of COVID-19
- Follow your workplace risk assessment controls, including correct use of PPE

**We all need to work collectively to keep the "R" number below one**

### What about face-coverings outside of work?

The Government are not saying face coverings are compulsory. However, if you can, the Government are advising to wear face coverings in enclosed public spaces outside of the workplace where social distancing is not possible or where you are more likely to come into contact with people you do not normally meet. For example, on public transport.

The evidence suggests that wearing a face covering does not protect you, but it may protect others **if you are infected but have not developed symptoms.**

A face covering can be very simple and may be worn in enclosed spaces where social distancing is not possible. It just needs to cover your mouth and nose. It is not the same as a facemask, such as the surgical masks or respirators used by health and care workers

However, Face coverings are not a replacement for social distancing, isolation guidance and regular handwashing, which remain the most important actions to protect yourself.

## Staying safe outside your home

The government has set out its plan to return life to as near normal as we can, as quickly and fairly as possible in order to safeguard livelihoods, but in a way that is safe and continues to protect our NHS.

The government has published staying safe outside your home for guidance on what the new rules will mean. These will take effect on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May.

Full details can be found at [staying-safe-outside-your-home](https://www.gov.uk/staying-safe-outside-your-home) on the GOV.UK website.

### Key messages remain:

- Keep your distance from people outside your household
- Keep your hands and face as clean as possible
- Work from home if you can
- Avoid being face-to-face with people if they are outside your household
- Reduce the number of people you spend time with in a work setting
- Avoid crowds
- If you have to travel (for example, to work or school), think about how and when you travel
- Wash your clothes regularly
- Keep indoor places well ventilated
- When at work, follow the advice given to you by your employer



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