

Get the Facts on
COVID-19



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COVID – 19 SITE SAFETY POLICY

www.Aplusbrickwork.co.uk



Contents

- 1. What is Covid-19.**
- 2. How to Minimize/Stop the Spread of the Virus.**
- 3. Traveling to and from Work.**
- 4. Correct Usage of PPE.**
- 5. Welfare Facilities.**
- 6. Provision of control measures to control risk arising from the activity.**
- 7. Controls for safety of the public, occupiers and other trades**
- 8. Safe use of PPE**
- 9. Key Points**

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1 What is Covid-19.

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus.

Most people infected with the COVID-19 virus will experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment. Older people, and those with underlying medical problems like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, and cancer are more likely to develop serious illness. **However, there has been a rise in numbers of younger people and people without these underlined health issues that are catching this disease and have developed serious fatal illness. This virus unless treated with care can be fatal.**

The best way to prevent and slow down transmission is be well informed about the COVID-19 virus, the disease it causes and how it spreads. Protect yourself and others from infection by washing your hands or using an alcohol-based rub frequently and not touching your face.

The COVID-19 virus spreads primarily through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose when an infected person coughs or sneezes, so it's important that you also practice respiratory etiquette (for example, by coughing into a flexed elbow).

Currently, there are no specific vaccines or treatments for COVID-19. However, there are many ongoing clinical trials evaluating potential treatments. WHO will continue to provide updated information as soon as clinical findings become available.

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of a new continuous cough and/or high temperature. If you have these symptoms, however mild, stay at home and do not leave your house for 7 days from when your symptoms started (if you live alone), or 14 days (if you live with someone who has symptoms). You do not need to call NHS 111 to go into self-isolation.

If your symptoms worsen during home isolation or are no better after 7 days, contact [NHS 111 online](#). If you have no internet access, you should call NHS 111. For a medical emergency dial 999.

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2 How to Minimize/Stop the Spread of the Virus.

Wash your hands more often than usual, for 20 seconds using soap and hot water, particularly after coughing, sneezing, and blowing your nose, or after being in public areas where other people are doing so. Use hand sanitiser if that is all you have access to.

To reduce the spread of germs when you cough or sneeze, cover your mouth and nose with a tissue, or your sleeve (not your hands) if you don't have a tissue, and throw the tissue in a bin immediately. Then wash your hands or use a hand sanitising gel.

Clean and disinfect regularly touched objects and surfaces using your regular cleaning products to reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people.

The most effective way to stop/minimize the spread of the virus is to avoid any contact with others in any way possible. The minimum distance kept from others should always be 2 meters if this is not possible in the working area then you should not commence works and inform your supervisor/manager as soon as it is clear that the minimum 2-meter rule cannot be adhered.

If the symptoms of another is clearly shown and they continue to work you should immediately stop work and leave the area where the suspected infected person is/has been working and notify your supervisor or contact the director (Mick Hall 07960 095017) or Health & Safety advisor (Tony Jacobs 07929 003851). The infected person will be remotely asked to leave site and must follow the isolation guidelines as stated on page 3.

As per the governments guidelines you should not be traveling for any reason other than for emergency, to get to and from work if you cannot work from home, and for exercise. You should not be meeting with friends and you should be adhering to the social distancing guidelines inside/outside of work.

Any sub-contractor of A Plus Brickwork suspected to have developed symptoms of the virus will be recorded and will not be permitted to return to work until the guidelines of self-isolation have been carried out successfully.

No work should be carried out by any tradesperson who has coronavirus symptoms, however mild. Any signs of any trade's person infected with the virus should be reported immediately.

3 Traveling to and from Work.

You should avoid public transport and we would strongly advise to only use this means of transport for emergencies. We would ask that you record any use of public transport used. Public transport record sheets will be provided. If you must use public transport you will need to follow the social distancing guidelines.

You should travel alone in any one vehicle. Do provide transport for others that do not have their own means to get to and from the work. If you are asked to pick up or drop off another you should tell them no and inform your supervisor/manager that they have requested such means to get to or from the works.

When having to refill your vehicle you must ensure you wear the biodegradable gloves provided by the supplier.



4 Correct Usage of PPE

- I. In accordance with the Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 2002. A Plus Brickwork Limited will reduce the risks to employees as far as is reasonably practical by the implementation of control measures within systems of work. Should control measures not be available or they are deemed impractical, as a last resort, operatives will be provided with the necessary protective equipment.
- II. **You should ensure you do not share PPE with any other persons for any reason whatsoever. If someone does use any part of your PPE it is no longer fit for use and should be correctly disposed. New PPE will be provided.**
- III. The foreseeable safety equipment deemed necessary to control the hazards highlighted include hard hats, suitable gloves, steel toe and mid-sole boots, hearing protection and masks in some circumstances. PPE will also be donned as per the requirements of the Main Contractor e.g. hi- visibility clothing.
- IV. It is not envisaged that excessive noise will be produced during this task however ear protection will be used should noise levels exceed 84dB(A).
- V. It is a mandatory requirement for the following items of PPE:
- VI. Safety Helmet (EN397), Steel toe and mid-sole boots (EN345), High visibility vest (EN471), gloves (EN388) & eye protection (EN166). **Biodegradable gloves must be worn (EN374) Visors will also be mandatory when the two-meter distance must be reduced due to work activity. i.e. heavy load install that will require two or more persons.**
- VII. The use of task specific eyewear, masks, eye and ear protection to be used where appropriate.

Strictly no PPE should be shared with others and once your PPE is no longer needed it should be correctly disposed. PPE should be taken home and washed regularly. PPE should not be left on site.

5 Welfare Facilities

We Strongly advise you to avoid the canteen provided by the main contractor unless you are unable to do so. If you can sit in your vehicle between resting times, then you should do so. **You should only sit in your vehicle alone.**

If you are unable to use your vehicle and require the usage of the canteen provided by the main contractor then **you must wash your hands before and after use, must not sit with others and you must sit on separate tables.** If this is not possible then you should inform, your supervisor/manager.

Resting times will be staggered as per the main contractor's schedule or each trade to avoid gathering. If other trades interrupt your resting time you should inform your supervisor/manager. And the main contractor will revise the other trades resting times to ensure each trade resting times are staggered.

Toilet usage will be restricted to no more than two people at one time this will be under strict obligations and anyone found abusing these restrictions will be removed from site. **You must ensure you wash your hands before and after use of any welfare facilities.**



6 Provision of control measures to control risk arising from Working activity.

A Plus Brickwork Limited will obtain authorization from the Main Contractor, to commence work on site and will confirm the working areas, welfare, first aid and emergency arrangements, storage & temporary lay-down locations.

All supervisors and operatives will be required to complete pre-qualification questionnaire and a return to site safety induction which will be carried out at A Plus Brickwork's head office. Once this has been carried

Once the pre-qualification questionnaire and the return to site safety induction has been carried out and passed A Plus supervisors and all operatives to read RAMS and refer to scope of works and drawings. Site specific Inductions shall be provided by the main contractor on site before commencing any works.

Operatives and the Project Foreman will be required to provide details of training details i.e. CSCS accreditation at the induction.

The materials and equipment shall then be unloaded to a designated area, as close as is reasonably practicable to the work areas wherever possible via HIAB vehicles in the interest of reducing the risks associated with manual handling. Thereafter distribution will be via crane/forklift/pallet trucks. Deliveries must be carried out under the main contractors site safety procedures.

Once satisfied that each delivery has been successfully unloaded and transported to the designated storage location, our Project Manager or designated person shall inspect the deliveries to ensure that the materials and any equipment, tools or plant are in good condition and suitable for the purpose for which they are to be used. In advance of distribution of any materials, tools and equipment, our Project Manager shall ensure that the area has been prepared in readiness for us to commence works, in particular checking that the area has been cleared of any excess materials, waste and/or debris to designated segregated waste storage areas Once satisfied that the areas have been suitably prepared in readiness for us to commence works and that preparatory works have been completed by other trades and that there are no other trades in the area. Our competent and experienced operatives shall commence with the suitable founding support required for the facade brickwork or internal blockwork in accordance with the specification.

Mortar shall be batched via one of the proposed mortar Silos or batched manually if needed via a site bulk mixer, in designated areas provided on site. One operative only will be allocated to preparing the mortar at either the silo's or mixer. In case the need to have a second person at the mortar distribution station the correct usage of PPE as defined in 4. VI (Visors will also be mandatory when the two-meter distance must be reduced due to work activity. i.e. heavy load install that will require two or more persons.) must be adhered at all times by all in the area.

The mixed mortar shall then be transferred to a single mortar tub adjacent to the proposed working area and transferred to the working area by telehandler to facilitate the application of the mortar and reduce waste. This will then be distributed to the bricklayer's spot boards by the hod carrier using a bucket, the 2 meter distancing will apply and the bricklayer will need to allow the hod carrier two meters distance whilst the spot boards are being filled (if the 2 meter distance cannot be maintained then both the hod carrier and the bricklayer must follow the correct usage of PPE 4. VI (Visors will also be mandatory when the two-meter distance must be reduced due to work activity. i.e. heavy load install that will require two or more persons.)

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Skilled bricklayers will then check the setting out details and confirm these with the Project Manager and or setting out engineer prior to commencing with the construction of the blockwork and brickwork.

If Bitumen and DPM are to be applied to areas or blockwork around the plots. To aid the drying process a heat may be used to dry out the blocks and help the DPM adhere to the blocks.

The initial stage of construction shall be to lay a full bed of mortar to the site specification substructure works, first making sure that the founding surface is clean and free from debris, allowing for a good bond between this and the first course of masonry.

When completed/cured, the walls shall then be constructed, in accordance with the specification, to the height of approximately 1800 (~24 courses from ground level), incorporating the cavity closers, DPC trays and specified masonry ties, checking for alignment, plumb and level.

Upon reaching the agreed height. Our Project Foreman shall ensure that sufficient notice is provided to the Scaffolding Foreman (tba) to allow for the timely adjustment of the required scaffold working platform fit for purpose for external and cavity walls. Internal walls to be built from as defined in site specific RAMS and shall be fit for purpose for cavity and internal walls.

Once satisfied that the working platform has been correctly erected and tagged as safe to use, our skilled and competent bricklayers shall then recommence with the construction of the brickwork, in a progressive manner so as to allow for the adaption of the scaffold to suit the brickwork lift heights, in accordance with the drawings provided, ensuring that work is completed in accordance with the construction issue drawings and specification. This same sequence is then repeatedly carried out for all subsequent brickwork/scaffolding lifts until completion of the block or house.

Once complete to agreed checking stages, the walls will be checked to ensure uniform joint spacing's, joint integrity (i.e. inspecting for pinholes or gaps) and to make sure that all joints have been finished flush to the wall awaiting tooling, and to ensure all perps are plumbed.

Where any repairs are necessary, then these shall be affected using fresh mortar while the joints have yet to reach first set. Where any areas may have already set, then these joints shall be raked out and re-pointed. Tooling of the joints shall be undertaken using a suitable jointing tool to achieve the specified joint shape i.e. "bucket handle" and the wall subjected to final inspection by the Project Manager, prior to removing any remaining equipment, tools or materials back to the secure storage area.

When building brick or blockwork gables the correct usage of PPE as defined in 4. VI (Visors will also be mandatory when the two-meter distance must be reduced due to work activity. i.e. heavy load install that will require two or more persons.) must always be adhered by all in the area. Only in cases where 1 bricklayer per gable will the 2-meter distance be able to be maintained and the bricklayer must allow 2 meters from the hod carrier to them to fill the boards with mortar.

When building the internal blockwork on the gable ends, the bricklayers will be required to build overhand. The internal blockwork skin cannot be pointed up if there is no access to the rear of the gables. Joints will be filled and flushed up with the trowel.

Once satisfied that all work has been satisfactorily completed, the area will be swept clear of any mortar splashes before removing any perimeter protection and disposing of any remaining waste materials within the skips provided by the main contractor.

Cutting of bricks and blocks to be made with a handheld 12-inch petrol grinder/block splitter. All operatives will be required to read operating instructions and will be equipped with suitable PPE. Dust control measures must be in use whilst operating this machinery. The use of all machinery is to be reviewed to ensure it is not subject to restricted use to comply with hand/arm vibration recommendations.

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Page | 7



7 Controls for safety of the public, occupiers, and other trades.

No non-essential visitors are permitted on site.

Rest times are to be staggered for each trade to avoid gathering. Main contractor to issue staggered schedule.

Biometric entry systems should be disabled and entry to site should be via signing in at the main entrance. You must wash your hands before signing into and out of site. Pens used to sign in or out are not to be shared. You must allow a minimum distance of 2 meters from anyone waiting to sign in.

Site inductions should be carried out as per the main contractors' safety guidelines.

Work areas should not be shared with any other trade. All working areas should be displayed clearly with signage to stop other trades entering.

All safety access will be provided for this contract by Main Contractor. **Trades must always be kept segregated. Each area should have signage to inform others of the trades carrying out there works in the area.**

The protection of third parties will be considered before the commencement of all tasks. Access and egress will always be kept clear.

Should an essential visitor be invited onto site, they will be required to wear all necessary Personal Protective Equipment and follow site policies.

8 Safe means of access

Access onto the site is following the dedicated pedestrian routes from the site gate to the site office set up and must be adhered to when accessing the construction areas **You must check for signage to ensure no other trades are working in the area you are trying to access.** All deliveries and distribution of materials to be by via segregated routes as set out in the health and safety plan for the site.



9 Key Points

- 1. Do not come to work if you have symptoms as defined.**
- 2. Two-meter distance from others. Visors must be worn if the distance must be reduced due to work activity i.e. heavy load install that requires two or more persons.**
- 3. Wash your hands when entering and leaving welfare facilities. And as much as possible.**
- 4. Trades must have segregated separate work areas.**
- 5. Travel alone, avoid public transport, follow social distancing guidelines.**
- 6. Do not share PPE with others, bio-logical gloves must be worn along with all other mandatory PPE.**

Thank you for your co-operation!



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