

RISK ASSESSMENT

Aimed at reducing transmission of COVID-19 within the premises of 3 Whittle Avenue specifically for The Protection Specialist Ltd.

Version 3.1

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Reviewed and agreed by:

Andy Barclay, Operations Director[SIGN]

List of Amendments

Document Version	Summary of change	Date of Modification
1.0	Initial creation of the risk assessment.	13.05.20
2.0	Amended to include what to do 'In the event of a positive COVID-19 test' section in line with the introduction of the governments Test and Trace system.	29.05.20
3.0	Amended to include section 10. Holiday Management in line with changes to government guidance.	24.06.20
3.1	Amendment to section 10. Holiday Management: update added on 'travel corridor exemptions' in line with government guidance change.	06.07.20

Overview

This risk assessment has been produced together with documents from H&S specialists and with the working environment of 3 Whittle Avenue specifically. The author advises that any users follow these links for an up to date summary of the [UK Government](#) advice for employers and businesses to follow to protect their workforce and customers, whilst continuing to trade. The assessment includes social distancing, hygiene, cleanliness, visitors, staff sickness advice and staying at home.

Covid-19 is a new illness that can affect your lungs and airways. It is caused by a virus called Coronavirus. Symptoms can be mild, moderate, severe or fatal.

Government advice is regularly evolving and the latest updates can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>, in line with these updates we will periodically update this risk assessment to reflect current guidance and distribute accordingly. Records will be maintained of previous risk assessments.

This Risk Assessment assumes that, where possible, staff of The Protection Specialist Ltd are working from home. Workers on site are kept to the minimum required to perform activities key to the ongoing performance of business.

To keep up to date with HSE advice to workplaces in this fast changing situation visit [HSE's website](#).

This risk assessment is written for and with the following in mind:

- Staff
- Visitors
- Cleaners
- Contractors
- Vulnerable groups – Elderly, Pregnant workers, those with existing underlying health conditions
- Delivery drivers

This section looks to address the areas of concern identified and the response by The Protection Specialist. In the following section, a break down of how each area of the building will have these actions applied is provided.

Risk assessment to address specific areas of concern related to COVID-19				
No.	Area of concern	Actions	Responsibility	Review date
1	Hand washing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Posters to be provided at all wash basins of how to wash hands and that this activity should be carried out for 20 seconds.	H&S	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand sanitiser to be provided in high traffic areas such as reception to encourage regular usage. • Reminder to staff to follow the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' to practice good hygiene. Tissues to be provided to staff upon a request to management. • Additional reminders on the importance of regular handwashing is to be provided to teams that deal who deal with paperwork. 		
2	Cleaning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hourly sanitisation of handles and cross contact places to be instated & documentation to be produced in the form of a tick list. • Daily sanitisation to be carried out by evening cleaners alongside regular clean, a checklist will be maintained to evidence this. • Weekly fogging using the approved chemical: alkyl (c12-16) dimethylbenzyl ammonium chloride (adbac/bkc (c12-16)), of the office to be carried out. The data sheet is available upon request. 	H&S	
3	Social distancing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual markers of 2m to be set out in all walkways using hazard tape. • Enforced staggered timings to limit the amount of people: entering the building; taking lunches and leaving the building to be set by management. • Reduction of face to face meetings unless 2m can be adhered to, i.e. hosting the meeting outside. • Kitchen to be open for warming food and storing food ONLY. Microwaves to be distributed across the room to ensure this is adhered to. Max. numbers to be advertised and enforced by management. • Smoking area to be limited to cigarette smokers & vapers to utilise the car park while respecting other users. Management to agree a schedule in advance to minimise congregation in this space. Reminder to staff to wash hands before and after these breaks and not to share cigarettes. • Tea points to occupy only 1 person at a time and wipes to be provided to wipe down facilities after use. 	Management	

4	Wearing gloves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gloves and adequate training in correct use to be provided if a task requires the use of these. Training to be provided using government guidance by B. Mattin. 	H&S	
5	PPE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PPE equipment to be available to staff whose jobs involve interaction with others – i.e. first aiders and IT staff. Correct training in the use of these to be provided and ultimately the first thought should be to adhere to social distancing. Training to be provided using government guidance by B. Mattin. 	H&S	
6	Symptoms of COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training to be reiterated to first aiders in how to attend to those displaying COVID-19 symptoms. Guidance to staff on the symptoms to be aware of and the process to follow will be reiterated regularly. Staff have a responsibility to inform their line manager should anyone in their home be exhibiting symptoms or self-isolating. 	H&S	
7	Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Washroom facilities to be provided to delivery drivers as required as per Government guidance. Where required we will ask that they respect our social distancing measures. Identify public transport users as higher risk of infection. Additional guidance to be provided as to their responsibility of social distancing for the sake of many others. Car sharing to be encouraged for those of the same household. Where car sharing is the only option available for those attending work, there must be only 1 in the front of the car and 1 in the back and these must be sanitised thoroughly each day. 	Management/ H&S	
8	Mental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HR have communicated to staff that they should reach out if they require support during this difficult time. Management have been provided with the resources and encouraged to reach out to staff to have open conversations regarding any support required during this time. 	HR	

9	Waste removal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any waste of concern to be raised to the attention of Facilities who will ensure this is disposed of as per guidance and the waste removal company are made aware. • Sensitive waste disposal to continue with bins located 2m away from workers to ensure safe use and collection. • Sanitary waste bins collections to continue, with low contact from a user perspective. 	H&S	
10	Vulnerable people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vulnerable people will be identified by HR with the support of the management team. Their needs will be discussed on a case by case basis to ensure the company provides them sufficient support that is in line with government guidance. 	HR/Management	
11	Visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings to be held virtually in all instances unless there is a physical requirement to attend site. • In the event an engineer or contract has to visit site as a physical element is required then they should be contacted in advance to agree the measures that are implemented (social distancing, hand washing, etc) and their agreement to be entering an occupied workplace. • Where a visitor is due to attend site it is imperative that we ask them to make us aware if they are displaying any symptoms or if someone in their home is self-isolating. • Operations Director and Facilities to made aware of all visitors in writing including the date and time they are due on site and acknowledgement that the above conditions have been met. 	H&S	

Enforcement

This section takes the above responses into consideration and applies them to The Protection Specialist and specifically to 3 Whittle Avenue.

To enforce this policy, it is advised that the below general steps are followed:

- Staff to agree electronically to adhere to all measures before being allowed to return to the building
- Social distance enforcers are appointed to provide peer pressure to adhere to the rules [see Appendix 1]
- Doors to be kept open where possible with fire retainers in place to and discourage staff to have things delivered to work
- No open window policy revoked to manage the internal temperature while awaiting direction on the use of air con
- Measures to be openly discussed in 1 to 1 conversations with staff with the emphasis on adhering to the measures
- HR to enforce this following the usual disciplinary measures
- Enforcement rota to be created utilising social distancing enforcers and management to identify any breaches to the below measures
- Mailbox [distribution group: COVID FEEDBACK] to provide staff ability to suggest any improvements or to flag any concerns they may have to HR and Operations

Enforcement of areas of concern in relation to COVID-19			
No	Area identified	Actions taken	Date to be reviewed
1	Entrance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Automatic door activated using fob to minimise contact point• 2 metres to be identified to encourage staff to keep a suitable distance• Stairs to be divided into direction at a time (i.e. up on left, down on right) and signage to be displayed to discourage any loitering• Lift to be limited to 1 person at a time• Hourly sanitisation carried out – doors sanitised, stair banister wiped,	
2	Toilets	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Middle sink blocked off from being used to provide the 2m distance when using these facilities	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signage on the outside of the door to remind staff that the facilities are limited to 3 people at any time • Urinals to remain out of use • Antibacterial wipes made available for people to wipe down the sink faucet and door handle after themselves • Hourly sanitisation carried out – door handles wiped down, sink faucet, toilet roll holders, flush buttons, 	
3	General office area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walkways to be marked with 2m divisions as a visual reminder • Staff to have at least 1 empty seat between them and be staggered so they are opposite an empty desk and situated next to an empty desk to optimise distancing [see Appendix 2] • Staff advised to call a member of staff they need to speak with as opposed to physically going to them • Post equipment – cleaning supplies to be stationed at each machine to ensure it is cleaned after each user • IT – first response will be to work on the staff members computer using daimware, however if they are required to attend to the staff, they will be asked to provide IT staff the sufficient space to carry out their work safely • Printers – cleaning supplies to be stationed at each machine to ensure it is cleaned after each user • Staff will be required to wipe their keyboard, mouse, pedestal and whole desk at the end of each working day • Hourly sanitisation to be carried out – tea points to be cleaned sufficiently 	
4	Kitchen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilities to be spread 2m apart to encourage social distancing, these to be marked out to present a visual aid. • Max. 4 occupants at any time to be advertised and management to conduct checks regularly • Tea points to be 1 occupant only and will be marked to present a visual aid. Posters to remind staff to wash their hands before touching communal facilities and cleaning amenities will be provided to encourage them to clean before the next user. 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dishwashers to be unloaded by B.Mattin in the morning, using gloves and loaded by the cleaners at the end of the day using gloves. • Communal plates and cutlery will be removed from site and staff will be expected to provide their own. • Hourly sanitisation – surfaces to be cleaned, fridge doors and microwaves to be cleaned, 	
5	Seating areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upstairs seating area to be shut • Downstairs seating is restricted to 4 people • Those with external seating options to occupy these during lunch breaks • Walking at a social distance is encouraged • Hourly sanitisation – surfaces to be cleaned including back of chairs 	
6	Car park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The staggering of shift times will reduce the number of staff using the car park at times. • Government advice suggests that the risk of transmission is lower when outdoors and at present there is sufficient parking spaces for employees therefore no changes will be applied here. 	
7	Smoking area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The smoking shelter will be marked at 2m and restricted to 2 people at a time. It will be prioritised for those who smoke cigarettes as opposed to vaping to encourage correct disposal of litter. 	
8	Roof terrace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The roof terrace will remain open and will be marked at 2m to provide a visual reminder. • This may provide a suitable location for meetings due to the outdoor but private nature of the space. • Signage will be provided to manage this. • Hourly sanitisation – handle to be cleaned 	

9	Health and Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Aid – first aiders to have PPE available in case of close contact required, except in the event of life-threatening situations in which case the risk of loss of life would be more pressing than the risk of transmission • Fire Evacuation procedure – fire evacuation procedure to be adapted to best adhere to social distancing measures but the risk of loss of life would be more pressing than the risk of transmission • Poster to be displayed to show our compliance with government measures • Risk assessment to be displayed on the website as per government requirements of having more than 50 staff 	
10	Holiday management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As per government guidance, should staff travel abroad to a country outside of the ‘travel corridor exemptions’, we will be asking them to follow the obligatory 14-day quarantine period. • Staff will be asked to notify the Company with their intentions to travel abroad for any existing pre-booked holiday and future requests for leave. • The Company will consider the options available to support those taking holiday to travel abroad whilst factoring in any commercial impact to any extended period of leave. E.g. if the role/individual can WFH, this could be set up prior to leave. • If they do not declare this information and upon investigation they were found to have travelled abroad and deliberately ignored the government guidance, then an investigation will be carried out by the company as an act of gross misconduct and the necessary HR procedure will be followed. 	

Measures not taken and reasoning

- The suggestion of a one-way system has not currently been put into practice on the basis that this would cause more people to have to pass each other causing an increase in interaction and heightening the risk of transmission. By staggering start times, end times and break times, we are staggering the times that people will be using the communal spaces and therefore minimising the chance of interaction and thus transmission.
- Temperature recording prior to entering the building is not being put in place currently due to there being any number of personal conditions that may cause an increase in temperature, not just a fever as a result of having contracted COVID-19. Enforcing temperature recording may cause unnecessary stress to people entering the building which would negate the measures that are in place to look after staff wellbeing. It may be enforced at a later date should it be approved by research as a suitable means for reducing transmission.
- Enforcing the use of face coverings is not being implemented due to this not being recognised as necessary in an office environment. Should staff wish to wear one then they will not be dissuaded for doing so, they will however be asked to comply with the full instructions which include: washing said face covering (if not disposable) in between uses, not touching the face covering or removing the face covering and reinstating throughout the day and that a face covering does not compensate for hand washing and general hygiene.

Appendix 1.

Social enforcers/responsible persons

- Charlotte Wilson
- Vicki Hemmings
- Becki Mattin
- Leanne Searle
- Stanislaw Grabowski
- Ben Jardine
- Tyler Hughes
- Molly Reid
- Alex Moss
- Daniella Slark
- Jazz Jones

Appendix 2.

In the event of a positive COVID-19 test

In line with government testing, if a staff member exhibits symptoms, we would ask them to self isolate for 14 days and follow the process for ordering a test. Currently the information suggests that unless a staff member has spent more than 15 minutes at less than 2 metres distance with someone then they are not considered to have come into 'close contact' and therefore there will be no impact on the wider business.

NHS Test and Trace will be in contact with anyone who falls into the 'close contact' with someone who has received a positive test result. If staff are informed, they have been in contact with someone who has tested positive then they are expected to declare this to their line manager, regardless of whether they are exhibiting symptoms, and self isolate for 14 days as per the guidance.

In response to a staff member informing us of a positive COVID-19 test, we will organise a deep clean of the affected persons desk space and where deemed necessary we will respond by chemically fogging the entirety of the building.

If you or a member of staff are absent due to sickness, you will be paid sick pay in line with the contractual terms of your employment.