



COVID-19: Working from Home

We are currently advising local Broxbourne business on the importance of allowing staff wherever possible to follow current Government guidance during the national lockdown to allow staff to **work from home**. This will help reduce the spread of COVID-19 within the local community.

The Government's current advice remains that **everyone who can work from home should do so**.

It has come to our attention that some employees are being asked to go to work during this national lockdown when it may be reasonable for them to work from home. The 'Stay at Home' guidance can be found on the Government's website link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home>

As part of your Health and Safety obligations, this guidance should be adopted.

In light of the rising infections and deaths, of which attributable to the new variant SARS-CoV-2 virus, and the latest emerging public health advice, it is also the right time to review your risk assessment to determine what enhanced measures may need to be introduced.

These could include:

- Increased distancing of at least 2m
- Improved ventilation rates
- Enhanced environmental cleaning
- Reducing the number of staff and customers
- Increasing spaces to reduce interactions
- Online rather than face to face interactions
- Reducing group sizes
- Use of suitable face coverings in high risk areas rather than reliance on physical barriers alone

Enhanced measures, should, where appropriate, be introduced without delay and will help to reduce transmission of the virus.

A final note that if you have any positive cases within the workplace, you should notify environmental health by phone on 01992 785577 or envhealth@broxbourne.gov.uk

Further information, checklists and templates can be found via Broxbourne Council's website www.broxbourne.gov.uk and via Hertfordshire Better Business for All Partnership's COVID-19 Trading Safely [toolkit](#) for local businesses. This includes risk assessment templates, FAQs for re-opening, risk assessments responsibilities, checklists on trading safely and much more.