

Guidance for Food Distribution Hub



Access and travel

- Anyone considered medically vulnerable/subject to government **shielding** advice should not visit or volunteer in a food hub. Those who are deemed vulnerable and classified as in the **“shielded”** group should stay at home
- During Covid-19 outbreak growers should wherever possible travel by bike or foot. At no time should public transport be used.
- Anyone displaying a fever or dry cough or has someone in their household with these symptoms

Social distancing and sanitation

- It is very unlikely that you can catch coronavirus from food. Covid-19 is a respiratory illness. It is not known to be transmitted by exposure to food or food packaging.
- Although it is very unlikely that coronavirus is transmitted through food, as a matter of good hygiene practice anyone handling food should wash their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. This should be done as a matter of routine, before and after handling food, and especially after being in a public place, blowing their nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- Frequently clean and disinfect objects and surfaces that are touched regularly, using your standard cleaning products.
- Take steps to avoid crowding and minimise opportunities for the virus to spread by maintaining a distance of 2 metres between individuals, wherever possible.
- No goods or food should be physically handed over to the customer. There should instead be a set drop-off point agreed in advance.
- If you decide the work should go ahead, you should

should stay at home and comply with national guidance [gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection)

- Food Hub leaders/managers should publicise restrictions on any communications and on external signage. This should include reference to government guidance on social distancing.
- advise staff to wash their hands frequently using soap and water for 20 seconds, and especially after blowing their nose, sneezing or coughing, on arrival at work, before and after eating, after using public transport, and when they arrive home. Where facilities to wash hands are not available, hand sanitiser should be used.
- If you decide the work should continue, staff should work side by side or facing away from each other rather than face-to-face if possible.
- You should increase the frequency of cleaning procedures, pausing production in the day if necessary for cleaning staff to wipe down workstations with disinfectant.
- You should assign staff to the same shift teams to limit social interaction.
- You should not allow staff to congregate in break times; you should consider arrangements such as staggered break times so that staff can continue to practice social distancing when taking breaks.
- Consider adding additional pop-up handwashing stations or facilities, providing soap, water and/or hand sanitiser.

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