

Coronavirus outbreak – guidance for Sue Hill & TFPL Candidates

Updated 13/03/2020

With the current status of the Coronavirus in the UK, this email is to inform and provide you with advice, trusted sources and our processes regarding working on your temporary assignment and the virus at this current stage. We advise you to stay updated with the government guidance – This is a fast-moving area and the guidance is being updated daily.

On the 12th March 2020 the government has announced that we are moving out of the contain phase and into delay, in response to the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

The UK Chief Medical Officers have now raised the risk to the UK from moderate to high.

These precautions are not to replace any processes or policies your place of work currently has implemented or communicated.

The welfare of our workers at Sue Hill Recruitment Services Ltd & TFPL Ltd remains our highest priority, and we are following government guidelines on all aspects of our response.

If you have any questions or concerns not covered here, please speak to your line manager in the first instance, or your consultant at Sue Hill Recruitment Services Ltd or TFPL Ltd.

Updated Guidance for phase 2 Delay (as of 12 March 2020)

As per the current advice, the most important thing individuals can do to protect themselves remains washing their hands more often, for at least 20 seconds, with soap and water. Make sure you cough or sneeze into a tissue, put it in a bin and wash your hands.

The UK government is asking anyone who shows certain symptoms to self-isolate for 7 days, regardless of whether they have travelled to affected areas. This means people are instructed to stay at home and avoid all but essential contact with others for 7 days from the point of displaying mild symptoms, to slow the spread of infection.

The symptoms are:

- a high temperature (37.8 degrees and above)
- a new, continuous cough

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 at [111.nhs.uk](https://www.nhs.uk). If you have no internet access, you should call NHS 111. For a medical emergency dial 999.

In the coming weeks, we will be introducing further social distancing measures for older and vulnerable people, asking them to self-isolate regardless of symptoms.

Looking after your own health

Go to [NHS.UK/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-information) for information about the virus and how to protect yourself. On this site you will find advice on simple steps you can take to avoid catching or spreading coronavirus, its symptoms, and how to seek medical help and self-isolate, if asked to do so.

Key steps you can take to avoid catching or spreading coronavirus, in line with NHS guidance, are as follows:

DO

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- always wash your hands when you get home or into work
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin straight away and wash your hands afterwards
- try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell.

DON'T

- do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean

Advice for travellers returning from abroad

Please follow the latest government guidelines, which can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public#returning-travellers>.

Advice for workers planning travel

There are some countries and areas where there's a higher chance of coming into contact with someone with coronavirus. All workers should check the [country by country travel advice on GOV.UK](#) and follow any steps outlined there.

How we are preparing for any changes to government guidelines

To support people affected by COVID-19:

The below measures were announced in the 2020 Budget, these changes are planned to be put in front of parliament as part of a bill early next week. These changes have not yet come into force at the time of this guidance document. Once the bill has been passed by parliament, we will update you.

- Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) will be available for eligible individuals diagnosed with COVID-19 or those who are unable to work because they are self-isolating in line with Government advice. This is in addition to the change announced by the Prime Minister that SSP will be payable from day 1 instead of day 4 for affected individuals.
- People who are advised to self-isolate for COVID-19 will soon be able to obtain an alternative to the fit note to cover this by contacting NHS 111, rather than visiting a doctor. This can be used by employees where their employers require evidence. Further details will be confirmed shortly.
- Those who are not eligible for SSP, for example the self-employed or people earning below the Lower Earnings Limit of £118 per week, can now more easily make a claim for Universal Credit or Contributory Employment and Support Allowance:
 1. For the duration of the outbreak, the requirements of the Universal Credit Minimum Income Floor will be temporarily relaxed for those who have COVID-19 or are self-isolating according to government advice, ensuring self-employed claimants will receive support.
 2. People will be able to claim Universal Credit and access advance payments upfront without the current requirement to attend a jobcentre if they are advised to self-isolate.
 3. Contributory Employment and Support Allowance will be payable, at a rate of £73.10 a week if you are over 25, for eligible people affected by COVID-19 or self-isolating in line with advice from Day 1 of sickness, rather than Day 8.
- The government has announced a new £500 million Hardship Fund so Local Authorities can support economically vulnerable people and households. The government expects most of this funding to be used to provide more council tax relief, either through existing Local Council Tax Support schemes, or through similar measures. MHCLG will set out more detail on this funding, including allocations, shortly.

Go to [NHS.UK/coronavirus](#) for advice on simple steps you can take to avoid catching or spreading coronavirus, including some [common questions](#) about prevention and how the virus is spread.

Keep in mind that the coronavirus is a challenging health issue and the government and health experts are constantly reviewing the situation. As such, while the guidance is up to date at the time of writing – it will be updated as and when any changes are required.