

# Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board

## Policy No: 47

### COVID-19 Business Continuity plan

Review Dates:

Review	
Board Approved	

#### **Introduction**

A coronavirus is a type of virus. As a group, coronaviruses are common across the world. COVID-19 is a new strain of coronavirus first identified in Wuhan City, China in January 2020.

The incubation period of COVID-19 is between 2 to 14 days. This means that if a person remains well 14 days after contact with someone with confirmed coronavirus, they have not been infected.

Stay aware of the latest information on the COVID-19 outbreak, available on the World Health Organisation website and through your national and local public health authority. Many countries around the world have seen cases of COVID-19 and several have seen outbreaks. Authorities in China and some other countries have succeeded in slowing or stopping their outbreaks. However, the situation is unpredictable so check regularly for the latest news.

The latest information on COVID 19 in the UK can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

#### **Phases and Actions**

- 1. Contain Phase.** Across the whole of the UK, public health agencies and authorities, the NHS, and Health and Social Care NI (HSCNI) have established plans and procedures to detect and isolate the first cases of COVID-19 as they emerge in the UK.
  - Anyone visiting infected areas in the previous 14 days should self-isolate and contact NHS 111 or use the NHS 111 online tool.
  - Anyone that has been in contact with someone with confirmed COVID-19 should self-isolate and contact NHS 111 or use the NHS 111 online tool.
  - Anyone experiencing COVID-19 symptoms (fever, dry cough, tiredness) should stay at home and contact NHS 111 or use the NHS 111 online tool.
  - Make sure the Sickness reporting procedures are followed.
  - Is it necessary to shake hands?
  - If you have any plans to travel abroad please discuss these with your line manager.
- 2. Delay Phase.** The Delay phase buys time for the testing of drugs and initial development of vaccines and/or improved therapies or tests to help reduce the impact of the disease.
  - Continue actions as per Contain Phase
  - People with Flu like symptoms may be asked to self-isolate by the authorities
  - If you have any plans to travel abroad please discuss these with your line manager.

- Consider postponing or cancelling meetings. Given the age of Board members some will be at greater risk of death if they were to contract COVID-19. Could meetings be held by Webinar if this phase became prolonged?
- Workforce
  - Encourage Lone-working – 1 person per machine
  - Don't congregate – e.g scan and send timesheets (install adobe scan on work phones)
- Office Staff
  - Clean surfaces regularly, daily as a minimum (Desks, keyboards, phones, light switches, door handles, anything you touch)
  - Can you work from home? Discuss with your line manager
  - Consider Reception and phone answering functions – rota basis from home? (Jill, Alex, Jess) only likely if cases identified
  - Restrict visitors to the office, can the outcome be achieved with a phone call or remote meeting? (The Board is setting up web/phone conferencing)

**3. Research Phase** It is possible that an outbreak or pandemic of COVID-19 could occur in multiple waves (it is not known yet if the disease will have a seasonal pattern, like flu) and therefore, depending upon what the emerging evidence starts to tell us, it may be necessary to ensure readiness for a future wave of activity.

The intention is to gather evidence about effective interventions in order to inform decision-making going forward. The UK government will keep emerging research needs under close review and progress research activities set out above.

**4. Mitigate Phase** As and when the disease moves into different phases, for example if transmission of the virus becomes established in the UK population, the nature and scale of the response will change. The chief focus will be to provide essential services, helping those most at risk to access the right treatment.

### **General Advice to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19**

Public Health England (PHE) recommends that the following general cold and flu precautions are taken to help prevent people from catching and spreading COVID-19:

- 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
- wash your hands with soap and water often – use hand sanitiser gel or the provided wipes if soap and water are not available.
- try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell
- clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces
- do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean

Employees are not recommended to wear facemasks (also known as surgical masks or respirators) to protect against the virus. Facemasks are only recommended to be worn by symptomatic individuals (advised by a healthcare worker) to reduce the risk of transmitting the infection to other people.