

# Public Document Pack



*Neuadd y Sir / County Hall, Llandrindod, Powys, LD1 5LG*

## **QUESTIONS AT ANY TIME TO CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDERS**

Response by the Portfolio Holder:

Thank you for your question regarding the support the Council will be providing as town centres and non-essential shops re-open.

Following the announcement by Welsh Government on 19<sup>th</sup> June regarding the re-opening of non-essential retail, the Council prepared a range of advice for businesses, which is available on the website:

<https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/9273/Advice-for-businesses-on-latest-changes>

Officers will be providing direct advice and support to businesses in response to inquiries received and a guidance leaflet providing health and safety advice (see attachment) has been emailed to retail premises that were permitted to re-open on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

The Welsh Government has implemented social distancing and hygiene measures to reduce the spread of Covid19 and requested that people abide by these requirements. Whilst the risks associated with Covid19 in the outdoors are considered to be significantly lower than in more confined environments, we do recognise that targeted and localised reallocation of road space in our town centres could aid in reducing these risks further. Like many other local authorities across Wales and the UK we will 'widen' pavements by cordoning off some on-street parking and where appropriate closing streets or road lanes. This is intended to encourage businesses to re-open and for people to shop in the knowledge they can do so safely. It is difficult to fully predict behaviour or demand, so there will inevitably need to be refinement of these measures as we move forward through the recovery phase.

I can also advise that we have been successful with an expression of interest to the Welsh Government for funding under their Local Sustainable Transport Covid Response Fund 2020-21, to provide temporary measures in our main towns that will assist in facilitating social distancing in those high streets. We will endeavour over the coming weeks and months to engage with the Local Members and Town/Community Councils during the development and implementation of plans.

Whilst it is an important function, providing public toilets is not a statutory duty of the Council and over the last five years or so, following a transition grant that has now ended, they are all financed and operated by Town & Community Councils or community groups across Powys, except for two that Powys County Council still currently operate. We are aware that some operators have chosen to keep public toilets open during these unprecedented times, whereas others for a variety of reasons have chosen to close or restrict opening hours during lockdown. We have recently shared an example risk assessment as guidance to operators to help and encourage them to maintain service provision as lockdown eases. We would

encourage local members to contact their local operators and work with their communities to maintain provision through the recovery phase.

Powys towns are important visitor destinations, with the tourism sector making a significant contribution to the local economy. The Council has been working closely with Visit Wales and the sector during the pandemic to provide advice and support to businesses. Detailed industry guidance on the opening-up of the visitor economy is expected from Welsh Government later this week. A tourism communications plan is being developed by the Council to communicate both immediate messages to businesses and communities in respect of reopening and the steps they must take, and to encourage visitors it is safe to return to Wales when that decision is taken by Welsh Government.

I hope the above information is of assistance.

# The safe reopening of the retail sector during Covid-19

## New guidance for the retail sector

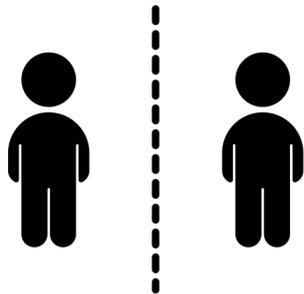
<https://gov.wales/workplace-guidance-employers-and-employees-covid19>



## Safety & Physical Distancing Signs for Employers

<https://gov.wales/safety-and-physical-distancing-signs-employers-coronavirus>

<https://www.uksafetystore.com/free-social-distancing-sign-templates>



## Good ventilation



The risk of air conditioning spreading coronavirus is extremely low but good ventilation is encouraged. If you use a centralised ventilation system that removes and circulates air to different rooms, it is recommended that you turn off recirculation and use a fresh air supply. You do not need to adjust other types of air conditioning systems. If you're unsure, speak to your heating ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) engineers.

Further advice can be found at <https://www.hse.gov.uk>

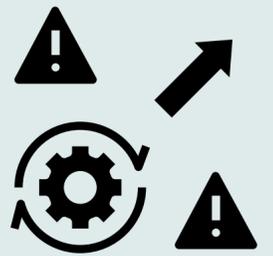
## Clean your workplace!

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/cleaning/index.htm>



## Risk Assessments

As an employer, you must protect people from harm. This includes taking reasonable steps to protect your workers and others from coronavirus. If you have fewer than five employees, you don't have to write anything down, but it might help if you do. Further advice and templates can be found at –



<https://www.hse.gov.uk/simplehealthsafety/risk/index.htm>

A two-stage risk assessment for NHS and Social Care workers, which is suitable for use for all staff who are vulnerable or at risk of contracting COVID19, including people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds can be found here –

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-06/covid-19-workforce-risk-assessment-tool.pdf>

## Legionella

When buildings reopen after lockdown, it is essential that water systems are not put back into use without considering the risks of Legionnaires' disease. There is an increased risk of waterborne pathogens such as Legionella bacteria being present as a consequence of the conditions that lockdown may have created.



<https://www.cieh.org/media/4208/legionella-guidance-covid-19.pdf>

## Advice on Personal Protective Equipment



<https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/ppe-face-masks/index.htm>

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/toolbox/ppe.htm>



HSE coronavirus help & advice line – 0300 790 6787

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