

HSE eBulletin: coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic updated advice

HSE has updated and expanded its advice to help employers provide adequate ventilation in their workplaces during the pandemic.

We also have updated guidance around talking to your workers about reducing risks from COVID-19.

Please see below for more information.

Updated advice on ventilation and air conditioning during the pandemic

HSE has updated and expanded its advice to help employers provide adequate ventilation in their workplaces during the pandemic.

This guidance builds on helping you to identify and take action in poorly ventilated areas.

It also provides guidance on other factors to consider when assessing the risk from aerosol transmission, and determining whether adequate ventilation is being provided to reduce this risk.

You should be maximising the fresh air in a space and this can be done by:

natural ventilation

which relies on passive air flow through windows, doors and air vents that can be fully or partially opened

mechanical ventilation

using fans and ducts to bring in fresh air from outside, or

 a combination of natural and mechanical ventilation, for example where mechanical ventilation relies on natural ventilation to maximise fresh air

<u>Read the updated guidance</u> and find out how you can provide adequate ventilation in your workplace, helping to protect workers and other people from transmission of coronavirus.

Updated advice on talking with your workers about preventing coronavirus

The law says you must consult with your workers about reducing risks from coronavirus in your workplace. HSE has updated its guidance to help you have conversations with your workforce about providing support and keeping control measures in place.

Talking to your workers means you can explain changes you're making to keep the workplace COVID-secure and continue to run your business safely. It also gives workers the chance to:

- tell you if they're worried about any workplace risks
- · influence decisions about health and safety

HSE has converted this advice to web pages so it is easier for people to find the information they need and we have expanded the guidance to include more advice on:

- supporting higher-risk groups
- returning to the workplace
- ventilation and air conditioning
- · stress, mental health and wellbeing

<u>The updated guidance</u> will help you keep in touch with workers and support them as restrictions are eased in the coming months.

Coronavirus: working safely

HSE has produced a range of guidance and support on working safely and making your workplace COVID-secure.

For all the latest updates on health and safety at work during the pandemic visit our website.

You can get all the latest news and updates from HSE across a range of industries and topics.

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