

## Risk Assessment – COVID-19



<b>Department / Location:</b>	Path Lab	<b>Date of Risk Assessment:</b>	15/05/2020
<b>Name of Assessor:</b>	Chris Platts	<b>Line Manager:</b>	Karen Rickards

**The risk question:** What is the risk of bringing infection with COVID-19 onto the site and transmitting infection to one of our staff, volunteers, visitors or contractors?

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing (to control the risk)?	Do you need to do anything else to control this risk?	Action by who?	Action by when?	Done
Bringing staff into the workplace	Members of staff who cannot work from home because of the nature of the work; which is essential to business continuity	Ensuring social distancing can be maintained. Ensuring effective hygiene is in place. Organizing protocols to reduce risk to an acceptable level. Ensuring staff are not in any susceptible groups and have been consulted in this risk assessment	Respond to any issues and updates that arise when protocol is in place to ensure the assessment and protocol address any changes in the level of risk.	CP	ongoing	

<p>A team member transmitting infection to another member of staff</p>	<p>7 members of team working in the laboratory.  Driver for transport of carcasses.  Member of staff collecting samples and transporting them.</p>	<p>Only two team members in the laboratory with use of dedicated zones and facilities.  Driver will use a separate entrance and will only enter the PME room  Shared area marked and will be separation in time.  Time lag between handling goods and parcels touched by other team member and protocol for handling of post will be followed when collecting samples  Good biosecurity protocols and hygiene in place and routine health and safety protocols for infection control in the laboratory will be in place  See protocol for laboratory team for details.</p>	<p>Important to liaise with cleaning team to ensure all at risk surfaces are protected; a card and date system in place.</p> <p>Review the activities of the driver when the lab team expands.</p>	<p>CP</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	
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Transmission of infection from an external source	Members of team working in the laboratory Driver.	Team members follow strict hygiene and follow normal laboratory health and safety protocols for infection control when handling samples and deliveries that come to the lab. Protocols are in place for collecting and handling post. Protocols are in place for the driver when dropping off carcasses for disposal and include strict hygiene. Social distancing will be practiced and will not be compromised as the work involves dead bodies and lifting equipment will be available.	One dedicated lab team member will take delivery of post and samples, wearing gloves and lab coats when there are two members of lab staff in.  Contact will be made with the collection point to arrange an accessible site for any animal that will be euthanased. In cases of sudden death the site may not be accessible and then social distancing may not be possible and PPE will be used as detailed in the protocol.	CP	Ongoing	
Transmission of infection to supporting services such as cleaning team.	Contractor for cleaning services Other teams on site; farm, hospital, dispatch.	All other teams have been informed of the presence of this team on site. Dedicated areas have been assigned to this team. Car parking will be close to the building. Social distancing must be maintained during breaks. Team must keep areas clear and clean and mugs/dishes washed, kitchen services and wash area washed down and kept clean. Farm staff will not access the lab when dropping samples off and they will ring the door bell, leaving the samples at the door before returning to their vehicle.	Cleaning staff to carry out duties when lab team aren't on site.  Dispatch team are sited opposite the laboratory so communication and safe distancing will be managed and constantly reviewed.  Door bell will be wiped with Steri-7 disinfectant twice a week (due to outside conditions) to prevent transmission of virus via the button. Only one farm sample per week so there would be no transmission between farms when they are leaving samples.	CP	Ongoing	

Well-being of staff	Members of staff using strict protocols and suffering possible stress due to concern about risk of infection and lone working.	Adequate and necessary breaks taken in line with protocol Regular contact with line manager. Well-being conversations with manager on a regular basis	Monitor effectiveness of controls Be aware of possible wellbeing issues and especially the risks of being in a laboratory	CP	Ongoing	
Provision of first aid	Members of the team	Issues involved with the giving of first aid during a pandemic have not been resolved. Emergency services can be called immediately a problem occurs. Normal protocols and risk assessments in place for the team will be followed including use of appropriate PPE	Monitor situation with regard to availability of appropriate PPE for first aiders' Monitor availability of first aiders able to provide service during the pandemic. Put arrangements in place for lone working for driver, including a contact log.	Provision of first aid		

**Line Manager (signature):** .....

**Date:** .....

**RAM Manager (signature):** .....

**Date:** .....

The Government has published a series of documents giving detailed guidance on Working safely during Covid-19, details can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-guidance-launched-to-help-get-brits-safely-back-to-work>