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Site Operating Procedures V7

On Thursday 7 January 2021, Version 7 of the [Site Operating Procedures](#)* were published to reflect the latest Government guidance following the national lockdown in England in a bid to further prevent the spread of the new COVID-19 variant.

This officially replaces SOP V6, which has now been withdrawn. While the changes are minor, they nonetheless must be addressed and adhered to at all times when operating on construction sites. Changes to the guidance include:

Self-isolation

The guidance has now been shifted regarding persons who must self-isolate, taking into account the fact that self-isolation is a legal requirement in the event of a positive test result or when an individual is instructed to do so by NHS Test & Trace. Those required to self-isolate include anyone who:

- ▶ Presents symptoms of COVID-19
- ▶ Receives a positive COVID-19 test result
- ▶ Has a member of their household/ support bubble showing symptoms of COVID-19
- ▶ Has returned from a country that is not on the travel corridor list
- ▶ Has been contacted by the NHS Test & Trace Service

If employees meet any of the above criteria, they must follow the guidance on self-isolation and must not attend site.

Shielding

Any employee who is considered to be clinically extremely vulnerable to COVID-19 should follow the latest guidance on shielding, which has been updated following the latest set of COVID-19 restrictions.

Canteens

It is no longer a requirement for site canteens to display an NHS QR code for visitors to scan upon arrival using the COVID-19 app. However, visitors must continue to wear face coverings in canteens, except when seated at a table to eat or drink. Those operating site canteens should also continue to adhere to Government guidance on [Keeping Workers and Customers Safe During COVID-19 in Restaurants](#).

Additional changes

There has also been an update to the [Build UK flowchart](#) to reflect the latest guidance

from Public Health England regarding the actions required if a worker tests positive for COVID-19 or needs to self-isolate. Under the new guidance, employers and contractors must contact PHE if they identify five or more cases in 14 days.

**Please note that all of the above guidance is based on Government guidance in England only – other restrictions and advice may apply in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, as well as in any regions subject to a localised lockdown.*

HOW CAN SOCOTEC HELP?

Offering tailored advice, risk and site assessments, audits, policy checks and remote training, all of which are available within our 'Business Ready' programme, SOCOTEC's Health & Safety Consultancy can equip your organisation with the confidence and peace of mind to safely resume operations during these challenging times. Please also note that all SOCOTEC staff carrying out on-site services continue to adhere to the latest government guidelines at all times.

[Click here](#) for further information on how SOCOTEC's Health & Safety Consultancy can support you during COVID-19, or [contact us](#).