



Coronavirus – Information for Land-Based Contractors

18 March 2020 updated 06/11/20

Please note: as this is a fast-moving and rapidly changing situation, this guidance may change at short notice and it is important to stay up-to-date with the latest advice from all [Governments](#) and the [NHS](#). Differing rules may apply in England, Wales, Scotland and N. Ireland and you should any specific requirements in your region.

Agricultural contractors have a dual role in this crisis as key workers to keep all staff and customers safe, whilst supporting and providing vital operations to farmers and land managers in the essential provision of food for the nation.

Keep Everyone Safe and Assess Risk

1. Ensure you and your staff are all fully informed and are taking all necessary precautions to try and avoid risk of catching or spreading the virus, such as:
 - Businesses and workplaces should encourage their employees to work at home, wherever possible – though clearly for contractors this is very difficult. However, office staff must be equipped to work remotely, wherever possible. All access to contracting offices and workshops should be strictly limited to essential staff only and provision must be made for keeping surfaces clean and ensuring staff have access to hand-washing/hand sanitation;
 - If someone becomes unwell in the workplace with a new, continuous cough, high temperature or a loss of, or change to, sense of smell or taste, they should be sent home immediately and advised to follow the [advice to stay at home](#);
 - Employees should be reminded to wash their hands for 20 seconds more frequently and catch coughs and sneezes in tissues (which should be disposed of);
 - Frequently clean and disinfect objects and surfaces that are touched regularly (eg cab door handles and steering wheels), using your standard cleaning products;
 - Make sure all staff have been issued with the latest guidance from Government (can be emailed links);
 - Employees will need your support to adhere to the recommendation to stay at home to reduce the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) to others;
 - Those who follow advice to stay at home, and who cannot work as a result, will be eligible for statutory sick pay (SSP) from the first day of their absence from work;
 - Employers should use their discretion and respect the medical need to self-isolate in making decisions about sick pay;
 - Employees from [defined vulnerable groups](#) should be strongly advised and supported to stay at home and work from there if possible.

Full information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/guidance-for-employers-and-businesses-on-coronavirus-covid-19>

National Association of Agricultural Contractors

The Old Cart Shed, Easton Lodge Farms, Old Oundle Road, Wansford PE8 6NP
Tel: 01780 784631 Website: www.naac.co.uk

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2. Be aware that members of staff, family or customers may need to self-isolate. Support and help them where possible. Review advice on employment issues to ensure that you are looking after employees going off sick or self-isolating.
3. Communicate with all your customers explaining what you will be doing to minimise risk and keep everyone safe (email or telephone call), whilst also keeping essential work going.

For example:

- All staff will be taking extra precautions hand-washing/using sanitiser and have been issued with additional facilities;
- All staff have been issued with the latest Government/NHS guidance on Coronavirus and how to avoid risk of catching or transmitting the virus;
- Ask customers to avoid any contact with you and your staff wherever possible – ideally have work established remotely, prior to the job, with all safety risks, locations, mapping and job requirements fully explained by the customer prior to your arrival;
- Ask customers to keep children supervised, safe and ideally away from the farm to minimise risk;
- Where customer contact is necessary, ask everyone to take account of and respect ‘social distancing’. If face to face contact is necessary, remain at least two metres apart, or take necessary precautions (eg wearing a mask);
- Ask customers to ensure they too are washing hands and taking the necessary precautions;
- Ask customers to make you aware of any of their family or staff who have contracted the virus or who are self-isolating due to a risk. This will ensure that all parties respect social distance and do not unwittingly put anyone at unnecessary risk.

Sadly this means that what can be an isolated industry is likely to remain even more so over the coming weeks and months, but we can all work together and utilise all forms of remote communication to stay in contact and keep the industry safe, whilst keeping the country fed.

If you, your staff or customers are finding the situation particularly difficult please do not hesitate to seek help. It is always there. The NAAC is always at the end of the phone or contact the Farming Community Network to talk to a sympathetic person who understands farmers and rural life, on 03000 111999. Calls will be answered in person from 7am-11pm every day of the year.

The NAAC is working with partners to try and keep everyone working but we must all take responsibility and play a part in keeping everyone safe.

As this situation is changing daily, please keep updated on the latest Government guidance and if you have any questions or concerns please contact the NAAC staff and we will try and assist.

Checklist for Contractors Visiting Farms

Please note this may not be a comprehensive list and you must think through your own business and make certain you have done a full risk analysis to keep everyone safe.

Checklist of Actions:	Done
Office and Yard	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wherever possible all staff should be based at home • Ensure all staff can maintain a 2m separation or 1 metre with extra precautions in place (such as wearing face coverings or increasing ventilation indoors) • Provide hand-washing facilities and encourage everyone to wash hands regularly for a minimum of 20 seconds. If hand-washing facilities are not available use hand sanitiser. • Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze – ensure all staff are aware - put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards • Close staff tearoom/facilities to avoid all close contact, only allowing access to washrooms/toilets • Do not allow visitors into the office, house or workshop – place notices at entrances • Discourage visitors to your yard – put up notices if necessary. If essential eg deliveries, ensure they remain at least 2m away (or 1.5m with extra Covid precautions) and ask for deliveries to be left at a distance in an agreed place • Ideally do not sign for deliveries – though many deliveries should now only require a name and not signature • Communicate with staff remotely to avoid direct contact • Display simple posters around the workplace reminding them of their responsibilities to each other. 	
Machinery	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where possible, keep to one-man-one machine • Clean tractor cabs thoroughly after use by each member of staff using disinfectant eg door handles, steering wheel and all areas likely to have been handled • Do not share customer's machinery off-site • Wash hands regularly after touching 'shared' machinery/equipment or consider wearing disposable gloves. 	
Before Visiting Customers	
Have a tel or email conversation to agree/assess:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If anyone on farm is at risk or vulnerable • There will be no direct contact with farm staff, unless necessary to work safely. Agree that everyone will remain at least 2m apart away (or 1.5m with extra Covid precautions) and ensure that where necessary hand-washing facilities are available – or equip staff with hand sanitiser. • Plan of work, including maps if necessary so that everyone is clear on the work to be completed. • Where additional inputs will be stored on farm, to avoid contact eg seed etc. • Children on farm – ensure safe systems of work/appropriate supervision • Any additional safety requirements on farm eg overhead power lines, underground utilities etc. 	

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