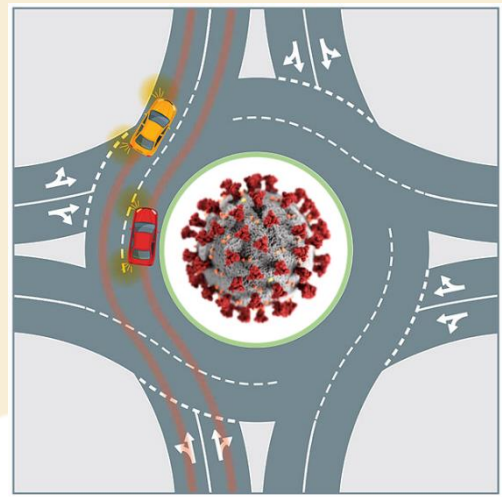


Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Workplace and Site Visits

Risk Assessment (Feb 2023)



What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is an illness that can affect people's lungs and airways caused by a virus called Coronavirus. Symptoms can be mild, moderate, severe or fatal.

What are the hazards in the workplace and during site visits?

Spread and contracting of COVID-19 Coronavirus.

Who might be harmed?

- Myself, my sub-contractors and my clients
- Visitors to premises and work sites
- My family – due to home office and interactions
- Vulnerable groups – Elderly, Pregnant workers, those with existing underlying health conditions
- Anyone else who physically comes in contact with myself or my sub-contractors

Controls Required

Hand Washing

- Hand washing facilities with soap and water in place.
- Stringent hand washing taking place.
- See hand washing guidance recommended by the Australian Government Department of Health: [Good hygiene for Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
- Drying of hands with disposable paper towels.
- Myself and my contacts encouraged to protect the skin by applying emollient cream regularly
- Gel sanitisers in any area where washing facilities not readily available – e.g., in vehicles and on-site

Vaccination

The state government initially required that all workers working in various industries needed to be COVID-19 vaccinated (refer previous versions of this Risk Assessment). Effective from June 10, 2022, WA's mandatory vaccination policy will only apply to workforces working with the most vulnerable to protect them from severe disease.

This means workers in the following sectors must be triple dose vaccinated to be able to enter their work premise:

- healthcare and health support workers in hospitals and primary health care settings
- workers in residential aged care facilities
- workers in residential disability settings.

People providing support to individuals in a private residential (home) setting, are not subject to the mandatory vaccination requirements.

The vaccine requirements in place in other workforces have been removed from this date.

The changes to the policy align with national advice from AHPPC which supports mandatory vaccination for workers in these sectors. Mandates for these groups continue to be implemented in most other Australian jurisdictions.

In the case of road safety auditing, roadwork traffic management audits, inspections and traffic surveys, there is no State Government Requirement for COVID Vaccinations unless this occurs on the premises indicated above or on premises where the relevant authority requires this.

In light of this, i3 consultants WA requires that all personnel are up-to-date with vaccinations applicable to the above premises whenever work is undertaken on these premises.

The Principal/ Snr Traffic & Roads Safety Engineer at i3 consultants, David Wilkins, is fully vaccinated against COVID-19, having received the fourth dose on 18 July 2022.

Refer to the State Government's [COVID-19 information for health professionals webpage](#) for more details.

Cleaning

- Frequently cleaning and disinfecting objects and surfaces that are touched regularly particularly in areas of high use such as door handles, light switches, reception area using appropriate cleaning products and methods.

Social Distancing

- Physical Distancing. Reducing the number of persons in any work area to comply with the 1.5-metre gap recommended by the Australian Government Department of Health: [Physical distancing for coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#).
- working from home and taking steps to reduce number of workers on site at any one time.
- Conference calls to be used instead of face-to-face meetings.
- Site visits and road safety audits to be undertaken by each team member driving separately to site and complying with physical distancing whilst on site. Videos and photographs to be used more extensively and shared with others, e.g., body worn cameras and continuous narration.

Wearing of Gloves

- Where Risk Assessment identifies wearing of gloves as a requirement of the job, an adequate supply of protective gloves will be available at all times (office, vehicle and on-site) to be worn with or without other protective gloves. The procedure for fitting and removing of gloves is as recommended by the Australian Government Department of Health: [How to fit and remove protective gloves](#).

PPE

- Public Health guidance on the use of PPE (personal protective equipment) to protect against COVID-19 relates to health care settings. **In all other settings individuals are asked to observe social distancing measures and practice good hand hygiene behaviours.** Where RPE is a requirement for risks associated with work undertaken in or around high-risk areas (e.g., healthcare clients, aged care clients), such PPE will be provided and fitted by the client along with compliance with the client's risk assessment procedures and will be agreed prior to visiting the site.

Symptoms of Covid-19

- If anyone becomes unwell with a new continuous cough, fever, sore throat, fatigue or shortness of breath, all contact with this person will be avoided and they will be advised to go home, self-isolate and check their symptoms using healthdirect's [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Symptom Checker](#).

Mental Health

- Coronavirus has changed the way we live, work, and communicate. The Coronavirus pandemic and associated response measures, such as restrictions on social gatherings, will have significant impacts for Australians and may cause people stress, anxiety, and concern.
- Prioritising our mental wellbeing is an important part of staying healthy. The Government's Head to Health website is the best place to start if anyone feels like they might need some help coping with anxiety and worry about Coronavirus. I have downloaded and read the COVID-19 National Health Plan – Supporting the mental health of Australians through the Coronavirus pandemic

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