### **COVID-19 RISK ASSESSMENT FORM**

**Company name:** Autonomy Care Group Limited

Department: Head Office, 67 Roundpond, Melksham, Wiltshire, SN12 8EB

**Directors completing assessment: Steve Tayler & Lucy Jolliffe** 

Date: 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020 – updated 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – updated 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021

# **Description of business and workplace**

Head Office - incorporating all administrative oversight and management coordination for the provision of Children & Adult Care & Support services, within Residential & community services.

# Methodology

How this risk assessment was completed:

- Visited premises
- Discussion with workers
- Considered risk to clinically vulnerable employees, e.g. pregnant employees or employees with health conditions
- Followed Government guidance on working safely during the coronavirus pandemic



# **Covid-19 Risk Assessment**

Hazards	People at risk	Action: control to reduce risk to appropriate level	Risk after action taken: Low, Medium or High
Transmission of Covid-19	Employees		
	<ul><li> Visitors to your premises</li><li> Vulnerable workers</li></ul>	Hand Washing	Low - Medium risk
		Hand washing facilities with soap and water in place.	
		Employees reminded on a regular basis, with the use of posters displayed within the office environment, to wash their hands for 20 seconds with water and soap and the importance of proper drying with disposable towels. Also reminded to catch coughs and sneezes in tissues – Follow "Catch it, Bin it, Kill it" public health guidance and to avoid touching face, eyes, nose or mouth with unclean hands. Tissues will be made available throughout the workplace.	
		Hand sanitisers are available where washing facilities not readily available, these include: at main entrance, next to photocopier and within meeting room.	
		Other Measures	
		Touch-based security devices (alarm keypad) will only be used at start and end of day. Hand sanitiser is located next to this and should be used at start and end of procedure.	
		Ventilation is required in each room, with at least one window open at all times to ensure fresh air is circulated.	
		Cleaning	
		Frequent cleaning and disinfecting of objects and surfaces is completed at the start and end of working day, these include door handles, light switches, reception area and hand rails.	

Standard cleaning products and methods are used. Cleaning rota is clearly displayed in kitchen area. Employees should wear appropriate PPE when undertaking cleaning duties.

Regular checks will be carried out by line managers to ensure that the necessary cleaning procedures are being followed.

A cleaning schedule has been introduced to ensure effective evidencing of hygiene arrangements.

## **Social Distancing**

Social Distancing – Means reducing the number of persons in any work area to comply with the 2-metre (6.5 foot) gap in accordance with Public Health advice:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people

Where possible, social distancing must be adhered to and close contact limited with employees, not spending prolonged period of time with individuals even in meetings.

Redesigning of office layout has taken place to ensure social distancing is maintained.

Operational departments have been split to ensure effective contingency planning.

Desk space and computer equipment has been assigned to an individual.

#### **Policies & Procedures**

Covid-19 policies and procedures including infection control and testing, have been reviewed and implemented, and available to all employees.

## Meetings

Conference calls and video conferencing has been introduced instead of face to face meetings as much as possible and employees to be reminded not to share stationery or other objects during meetings.

Where meetings need to take place face to face, only those essential to the meeting should be in attendance, observing 2m social distancing where possible. The meeting room is re-organised for each necessary meeting with chairs removed as appropriate. Wearing of face masks is optional.

Hand sanitiser is provided in meeting room.

Windows are open during meetings to ensure the room is well-ventilated.

Management checks will be put in place to ensure this is adhered to.

# **Mitigating Actions**

Where the social distancing guidelines cannot be followed in full, we will carefully consider whether that activity needs to continue for the business to operate, and, if so, take all the mitigating actions possible to reduce the risk of transmission between staff as follows:

Encouraging increased frequency of hand washing and surface cleaning

Keeping the activity time involved as short as possible.

Using back-to-back or side-to-side working (rather than face-to-face) whenever possible.

Where people must work face-to-face for a sustained period with more than a small group of fixed partners, we will assess whether the activity can safely go ahead.

### **Accidents, Security and Other Incidents**

In an emergency, for example, an accident, fire, break-in or trespass, people do not have to stay 2m apart if it would be unsafe.

People involved in the provision of assistance to others should pay particular attention to sanitation measures immediately afterwards, including washing hands.

# **Wearing of Gloves**

There is an adequate supply of gloves, held within the office, should staff wish to use these for any task.

Staff are reminded that wearing of gloves is not a substitute for good hand washing.

# **Face Coverings**

Staff have a choice whether to wear a face covering whilst in a room with more than one person. Should any member of staff display symptoms of a cold or flu, we request a negative lateral flow test before entering the building. Even with a negative result, we request staff to wear a face covering in the building for infection control measure during their period of illness. A supply of face coverings is available for staff should they wish.

# **Symptoms of Covid-19**

If anyone becomes unwell with a new continuous cough, a high temperature or a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia) in the workplace they will be sent home and advised to obtain a PCR Covid 19 test immediately.

#### When to Self Isolate

Self-isolate straight away and get a <u>PCR test (a test that is sent to the lab) on GOV.UK</u> as soon as possible if you have any of these 3 symptoms of COVID-19, even if they are mild:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

You should also self-isolate straight away if:

- you've tested positive for COVID-19 this means you have the virus
- someone you live with has symptoms or tested positive (unless you are not required to self-isolate – check below if this applies to you)
- you've been told to self-isolate following contact with someone who tested positive – <u>find out what to do if</u> you're told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace or the NHS COVID-19 app

#### Information:

You may need to quarantine when you arrive in England from abroad. Check the quarantine rules when entering England on GOV.UK

Line managers will maintain regular contact with staff members during this time.

## When you do not need to self-isolate

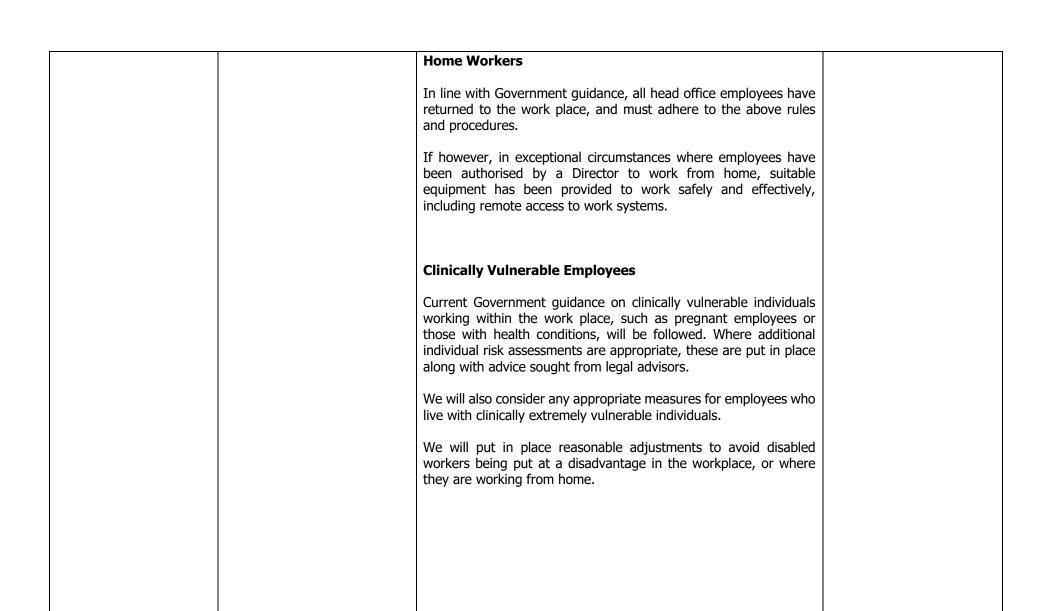
If someone you live with has symptoms of COVID-19, or has tested positive for COVID-19, you will not need to self-isolate if any of the following apply:

- you're fully vaccinated this means 14 days have passed since your final dose of a COVID-19 vaccine given by the NHS
- you're under 18 years, 6 months old
- you're taking part or have taken part in a COVID-19 vaccine trial
- you're not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Even if you do not have symptoms, you should still:

- get a PCR test on GOV.UK to check if you have COVID-19
- follow advice on <u>how to avoid catching and spreading</u> COVID-19
- consider limiting contact with <u>people who are at higher</u> risk from COVID-19

If advised that a member of staff or public has developed Covid-19 and were recently on our premises (including where a member of staff has visited other work place premises such as domestic premises), the management team will contact the Public Health England to discuss the case, identify people who have been in contact with them and will take advice on any actions or precautions that should be taken.



Mental Health	
Management will promote mental health & wellbeing awareness to staff during the Coronavirus outbreak and will offer whatever support they can to help: <a href="https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing/">https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing/</a>	
Regular communication of mental health information and line manager support for those who need additional support.	
All staff are able to access the stress helpline, as published in employee handbook.	