

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

Good afternoon.

As the coronavirus outbreak develops across the UK, we hope that you are coping under the challenging circumstances and that you, your colleagues and family are well. We will continue to provide you with a first-rate service, whilst also ensuring safety at all times.

LABC guidance

Based on guidance from the LABC there are some changes which will need to be put into place around site visits. These are designed to keep you, your staff and colleagues safe – whilst trying to minimise the impact coronavirus has on your business.

Virtual inspections where possible

We recognise the need to balance service delivery with reduced personal contact, so where possible we will now be conducting virtual inspections. We will be asking you to provide suitable photographic evidence and any other relevant details and information. Our aim is to minimise the number of site inspections but still protect the public. Here are some examples, though the list is not exhaustive:

- o Commencement – where possible we will carry this out virtually unless it is combined with a foundation inspection
- o Foundations – on site visit
- o DPC – virtual inspection
- o Drainage – on site visit
- o Floor prep’ – virtual inspection unless this is combined with other inspection (e.g. drains)
- o Structural works – on site visit - ideally combined with another inspection
- o Insulation works – virtual inspection
- o Completions – if time critical (for conveyancing/mortgaging purposes) – on site visit – otherwise we will delay until the situation improves
- o General advice – unless necessary all advice should be provided remotely

BUILDING CONTROL SITE VISITS



VIRTUAL VISIT

- DPC
- COMMENCEMENT
- FLOOR PREP
- INSULATION WORKS



SITE VISIT

- FOUNDATIONS
- DRAINAGE
- STRUCTURAL WORKS
- COMPLETIONS, IF TIME CRITICAL

Pre-visit safety

When booking a site inspection, we will ask you to confirm the following:

- o If anyone at the site (property owner or builder) to be visited has been ill and displaying the coronavirus symptoms: a new, continuous cough or a high temperature
- o If anyone at the site (property owner or builder) has travelled from either Italy, Spain or China within the last 2 weeks
- o Could the inspection be carried out in the absence of the builder / homeowner if necessary?
- o Will there be vulnerable people on the premises?

If anyone at the site is ill or has visited those countries, we will seek to delay our visit for a fortnight. If there are vulnerable people on the premises, a discussion will need to be had with the premises owner/manager to determine the best way to proceed in the circumstances. As with all inspections, a risk-based approach will need to be taken, in the interests of personal and public safety.

Should the current guidance change, we will let you know as soon as possible. Please feel free to contact us should you wish to discuss any specific points raised.

Reduce mail handling

Wherever possible, we'd be grateful if you could email us in preference to sending paperwork (cheques, plans etc.) via post. This will reduce the risk to everyone, including our postal workers.

Further reading

Guidance for employers and businesses on coronavirus (COVID-19)

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

We want to thank you for your patience during this challenging situation and wish you all the best.

Kind regards

Paul Hughes

Corporate Manager – BMSDC Building Control