



Build Studios

COVID-19 Risk Assessment and COVID-secure preparations

Introduction

This risk assessment has been produced with reference to Gov.UK publication 'Working safely during coronavirus (COVID-19); updated 23 December 2021' with specific reference to the guidance for offices.

The risk assessment takes into account Build Studios' responsibilities as an employer to its staff, but also as an operator of shared workspace to its members and visitors to the building, ensuring safety and equality in the workplace.

It has taken into consideration feedback from staff and members on the safe operation of the workspace.

The risk assessment also identifies practical **Actions** that will be undertaken to ensure the health and safety of all users of the space and reduce the risk of spreading Coronavirus; specifically the measures set out how Build Studios will ensure the workspace remains COVID-secure.

The risk assessment has been conducted by Build Studios' Chief Executive. Responsibility for its day-to-day implementation will be taken by the Build Studios Workspace Manager.

The risk assessment and actions will be reviewed initially on a monthly basis and updated as appropriate in line with changing government guidance.

Theme: Social distancing

Wherever possible, we will maintain adequate social distancing between users of the space to minimise the risk of transmission, including while arriving at and departing from Build Studios and while working in or visiting the building.

Hazard	Risk (High, Low, Medium)	Action
Coming into close contact with individuals on arrival at or leaving the workspace	Low. Build Studios has a clear glass frontage with good sight lines into and out of the workspace, giving visitors and users forewarning of anyone coming into or out of the space. There are no set start-times, with members and visitors arriving at different times throughout the day.	Signage will be displayed at the entrance (exterior door and front desk) to remind people to maintain social distancing guidelines. Workspace Manager will remind members and visitors to keep their distance if people begin to congregate at the entrance.
Moving around the workspace	Medium. There is generally good visibility throughout the workspace, but some 'blind corners' and more narrow walkways where there is a risk of people not	At the entrance to narrow walkways or blind corners such as at the foot of the stairs and entrance to the kitchen/toilet area, 'wait zones' will be set up asking people to wait to check no one is coming the other way before proceeding.

	<p>maintaining adequate social distance</p>	<p>Use of the lift will be restricted to one user and indicated by appropriate signage. If it is essential that two people use the lift at the same time, they will be asked to face opposite walls.</p> <p>Members will be encouraged to consider wearing a mask if they will be required to move through the space in close proximity to other users.</p>
<p>Workstations</p>	<p>High. Some of the office furniture can be rearranged to ensure members are able to site at an appropriate distance. In some areas, physical intervention will be required to protect people where this cannot be maintained. Hot-desking will be restricted and carefully managed to prevent the potential for transmission of Coronavirus.</p>	<p>Ground floor circular tables will be restricted to 2 users.</p> <p>Additional glass screens will be made available for ground floor desk users wishing to create an additional barrier between themselves and their co-workers.</p> <p>Upstairs desks will be managed to ensure social distancing with appropriate mitigations. Back-to-back and side-by-side seating will be deployed where appropriate. Other desks will require a central clear protective panel to separate users.</p> <p>Hot-desking and desk sharing at Build Studios will be strictly controlled. Flexible members will have to provide 48 hours notice to attend to enable additional cleaning to take place before they arrive. Regular flexible members will be allocated their own desk wherever possible.</p>

		<p>Members that have a part-time desk membership will be required to specify in advance the days on which they will use it to enable a full ‘changeover clean’ to take place.</p>
<p>Common Areas</p>	<p>High. The kitchen area is a confined space that is frequently busy, especially at lunchtime. The ground floor round tables are often used for informal gatherings to eat lunch. The toilets are accessed via the same corridor as the kitchen, which is often busy. The reception area is less busy, but is also used as an informal gathering point.</p>	<p>The kitchen area will remain open to members, but with a one-in-one-out policy. This will be clearly communicated with signage at the entrance. Members will also be asked to refrain from queueing to use the kitchen or toilets and encouraged to come back later to avoid bringing them into close contact with other users.</p> <p>Members will be encouraged to eat outside at the benches immediately outside Build Studios, at the public seating on Lower Marsh Market or at their desks in the event of bad weather.</p> <p>Members will be asked to bring in their own food if possible that does not require them to use the kitchen facilities or to eat off-site e.g. from one of the cafes or street food stalls at Lower Marsh market.</p> <p>The reception sofa will remain in situ. Use will be restricted to two people at a time.</p> <p>A clear screen will be placed at the reception desk to protect Build Studios staff and members/visitors.</p>

		All externally facilitated evening events at Build Studios remain cancelled until further notice.
Meeting rooms	Medium. The ground floor board room and first floor meeting room can accommodate four people with '1m plus' social distancing.	Signage will be displayed on the doors to the meeting room notifying people of the reduced capacity of 4.
Accident/emergency	High. In the event of an emergency, such as a fire, people will need to evacuate the building quickly and will likely be in close proximity to each other.	In the event of an accident or emergency that requires people to be close together, the priority will be to make the immediate situation safe in the first instance (e.g. evacuate the building in the event of a fire). Attention will be made to sanitation measures immediately afterwards, e.g. reminding people to wash their hands if they have been in close contact with others.

Theme: Managing visitors and contractors

We will encourage staff and members to restrict the number of visitors to Build Studios to the minimum required. We will communicate clearly with all visitors and contractors the measures we have put in place to restrict the potential transmission of Coronavirus.

Hazard	Risk (High, Low, Medium)	Action
Excessive visitors to the workspace	Low. The majority of visitors to Build Studios are individuals or small numbers of clients or contractors visiting members.	<p>Members and staff will be encouraged to limit visitors to Build Studios to the minimum required and encourage remote attendance where possible – e.g. dialling in to video calls.</p> <p>Clear signage will indicate the maximum capacity (reduced) for the board room.</p>
Transmission of Coronavirus by visitors to and users of the workspace	Low. Limited numbers of visitors will be allowed to visit Build Studios and measures to prevent the transmission of Coronavirus will be tightly managed.	<p>Members will be asked to include a link to Build Studios' COVID-secure risk assessment and measures to prevent the spread of Coronavirus in their email sign-offs and encourage their guests to read this prior to arriving at the workspace.</p> <p>Members will be reminded of the importance of following government guidelines and regulations regarding self isolating and taking a PCR test if showing symptoms of Coronavirus and not coming into the office.</p> <p>On arrival, guests will be briefed on Build Studios COVID-secure protocols and directed to relevant signage and hygiene products.</p> <p>Visitors will not be required to sign in using a shared pen. Instead, members may sign in their own guests using</p>

		<p>their own pen, via email to hello@buildstudios.co.uk or guests may sign in verbally to Build Studios staff by stating their name and who they are visiting.</p> <p>Contractor visits will be scheduled for 'off-peak' times wherever possible to minimise contact with people in the workspace.</p>
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<p>Theme: Cleaning</p> <p>We will maintain the highest possible standards of cleanliness and hygiene in the workspace to limit the potential transmission of Coronavirus.</p>		
Hazard	Risk (High, Low, Medium)	Action
Ventilation in the workspace	Medium. The air handling system at Build Studios is a new system (less than five years old). However, Build Studios' location on a busy road means that extra care must be taken with	The air handling system at Build Studios has been checked by Urbanest (landlord) facilities staff to ensure it is running at optimum capacity and that air filters have been changed or cleaned as required.

	managing air flow in the workspace.	Members will be encouraged to leave the doors to the board room propped open if possible to enable better air-flow through the room.
Poor hygiene	Medium. There are good hand-washing facilities at Build Studios. However, members and visitors will need to be reminded to be extra vigilant with maintaining good hygiene standards.	<p>Hand sanitiser will be provided at key points in the workspace, in particular: the reception desk, the top of the stairs, the print/photocopier room and the board room.</p> <p>Alcohol wipes and other cleaning equipment will be provided throughout the workspace and on request.</p> <p>Signage will be displayed in the kitchen and toilets demonstrating correct hand washing protocol.</p> <p>Boxes of tissues and bins will be provided on each floor and in the board room with signage encouraging use and disposal.</p>
Poor cleanliness	Low. Build Studios is cleaned thoroughly on a twice-daily basis by Urbanest's on-site contractors, Cabenco. However, additional cleaning will be required to	<p>A deep-clean of Build Studios has been undertaken prior to re-opening after Christmas.</p> <p>Additional cleaning will be undertaken by Cabenco of the common areas and frequent touch-point areas (door handles etc) during the lunchtime clean.</p>

	<p>minimise risk of transmitting Coronavirus.</p>	<p>Build Studios staff will also wipe down all frequent touch-points and the board room table mid morning and mid afternoon</p> <p>Members will be encouraged to keep the space as clean as possible, maintaining clear desks to facilitate cleaning and storing loose items in lockers or shelving and off the floor.</p> <p>Alcohol wipes will be supplied in the shower room and members will be asked to clean the shower after use. This will also be checked regularly by Build Studios staff.</p>
<p>Handling goods and postage</p>	<p>Medium. Build Studios' post is sorted by Urbanest staff before being picked up and put in pigeonholes by Build Studios' staff. Deliveries are also made directly to the workspace.</p>	<p>Build Studios staff will wash their hands before and after handling all post and packages addressed to Build Studios before placing it in members' pigeonholes for collection.</p> <p>Members will be asked to restrict the number of items they have delivered to Build Studios to work-related items only.</p>
<p>Kitchen and catering hygiene</p>	<p>Medium-high. Build Studios' kitchen is often busy and there is high usage of communal facilities, including coffee machine,</p>	<p>Members will be asked to minimise their use of the kitchen and the upstairs fridges.</p> <p>Members should bring pre-prepared food that ideally does not require the use of the microwave and does not</p>

	<p>water dispenser, cutlery, dishwasher and microwave. The kitchen will require careful management to maintain excellent hygiene levels.</p>	<p>require preparation space in the kitchen; or to purchase their lunch off site.</p> <p>Members are encouraged to bring their own food containers, which must be washed immediately after use and either stored in a locker or taken home at the end of the day. Any non-perishable food items must be stored in lockers, not in the kitchen. Members choosing to use cutlery and crockery supplied by Build Studios must ensure they are placed in the dishwasher after use, not in the sink. They will be washed on a high temperature setting and returned to the cupboards by the cleaners.</p> <p>Alcohol wipes will be supplied in the kitchen and by the upstairs fridges and signage displayed asking members to wipe the buttons on the coffee machine and water dispenser after use, as well as any handles they have touched.</p>
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Theme: General

Following legal requirements and good practice in adhering to our health and safety obligations and making the workspace COVID-secure

Consideration	Principle	Action
Who should go to work?	That staff should be given the opportunity to work from home if their job can be done effectively without being in the workspace.	<p>The Workspace Manager position is required to be based on-site to ensure the effective and safe running of Build Studios. It is not possible to relocate this role off-site.</p> <p>The Chief Executive and Comms and Marketing Assistant role can largely be done working from home. Staffing will be planned to ensure the minimum number of people are on site to operate the space safely and effectively.</p>
Protecting people who are at higher risk		All Build Studios staff are consulted as to whether they are at higher risk or have regular contact with high risk individuals and appropriate mitigation measures will be made to accommodate individual circumstances.
People who need to self-isolate	To make sure individuals who are advised to stay at home under existing government guidance do not physically come to work. This includes individuals who have symptoms of COVID-19 as well as those who live in a household with	<p>If appropriate and practical, Build Studios will enable staff to work from home while self-isolating.</p> <p>Build Studios will follow current guidance for employers relating to statutory sick pay due to COVID-19.</p>

	someone who has symptoms	
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<p>Theme: Testing for employees and members</p> <p>Following current guidance regarding Covid testing for employees of Build Studios and member businesses.</p>		
Consideration	Principle	Action
Staff of Build Studios	That any employees, who are unable to work from home and are symptom-free should have access to twice-weekly rapid lateral flow testing.	Build Studios staff will access rapid lateral flow tests from Boots the Chemist on Lower Marsh.
Members of Build Studios	That members of Build Studios and their guests should have access to rapid lateral flow testing. That members should be encouraged to take lateral	Members will be advised that they can order and collect free rapid lateral flow tests from Boots the Chemist on Lower Marsh.

	flow tests before coming to the office.	
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Build Studios

5 January 2022