



COVID-19 SECURE RISK ASSESSMENT

Walker Books

October 2021

Version 1

Relevant Guidance

Relevant Guidance	Reference
Government Guidance - Working Safely during COVID-19 in offices and contact centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/offices-and-contact-centres
Government Guidance - Face coverings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own
Health and Safety Executive - First Aid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/first-aid-and-medicals/first-aid-certificate-coronavirus.htm
Health and Safety Executive - Talking to your workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/working-safely/talking-to-your-workers/index.htm
Government Guidance – Coronavirus restrictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-coronavirus-restrictions-what-you-can-and-cannot-do
Government Guidance – Stay at Home Guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection
Government Site – Ordering Lateral Flow Tests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests
Government Testing Campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-campaign-urges-public-to-get-tested-twice-a-week

Definition of Residual Risk

Residual Risk	Definition
Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infection risk similar to normal low-contact activity, such as receiving shopping at home.
Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infection risk similar to normal day-to-day outdoors activity, such as shopping, dining or visiting friends.
High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infection risk elevated, indicating that the activity should be avoided unless that is not possible and if not, kept as short as possible.

Point	Identified Risk	Risk Mitigation Measure	Residual Risk
1	Social Finance staff bringing virus into our office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any staff member feeling unwell in any way should not attend the office under any circumstances. Any staff member experiencing COVID-19 symptoms should immediately follow Government recommendations and advise HR and their line manager. This includes being tested for COVID-19 as soon as possible. See here for full guidance on COVID-19 symptoms. The other risk mitigation measures to help prevent staff bringing the virus into the Social Finance office are detailed throughout this risk assessment. 	Medium
2	Increased risk of transmission whilst travelling on public transport to reach the office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If using public transport: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please follow the current government guidelines surrounding this. Practise dynamic risk assessment: if you believe your safety is compromised, leave the area or location. Use hand sanitiser until there is access to a sink to wash hands. Wash hands with soap and water in line with current guidance on arrival at the office. 	High
3	Close contact in lifts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid lifts if possible and use stairs. Use stairs to exit the building. When using the lift hand sanitiser should be used before and after 	Low
4	Touching door handles, lift buttons, door touch plates etc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If possible, use an implement such as a key or other suitable item to select buttons on lifts, and avoid touching handles, doorplates and other high-use touchpoints directly with hands. A contactless door opening tool has been provided to all office staff for this purpose. Our office will be cleaned on a daily basis, every morning between 06:00 and 08:00. The whole of Walker Books is also cleaned on a daily basis. Wash hands after contact with touchpoints and on arrival at the Social Finance office area. Do not touch any part of your face before doing this. 	Low
5	Increased risk of transmission during an emergency evacuation due to volume of people and smaller spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is recommended that you wear a face covering during any evacuation as long as doing so would not delay or impede your exit from the building. If you are supporting someone with additional needs during an evacuation you should pay close attention to hygiene procedures afterwards. 	High

Point	Identified Risk	Risk Mitigation Measure	Residual Risk
7	Use of communal areas outside of the Social Finance office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is recommended that a face covering is worn in all communal areas of the building. Please follow the government guidelines when using the communal area of Walker Books and refer to the Walker Books Covid risk assessment found here. 	Medium
8	Risk of transmission through desks and communal surfaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desks and surfaces will be professionally cleaned every working day. Suitable cleaning products with paper towels are widely available for staff to wipe down surfaces during the day. Office Administrator will assure daily completion of the office cleaning. 	Low
9	Passing on virus through sharing of personal items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All staff have been issued their own individual laptop which they should use in the office. 	Low
10	Risk of transmission through delivery of First Aid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If a Social Finance first aider is unavailable at any time, a Walker Books first aider will be on site during standard working hours – 9am-5pm. Anyone delivering first aid is recommended to wear a face shield, gloves and an apron. Try to assist from a safe distance and minimise time you are sharing a breathing zone. If they are capable, direct patient to do things for you. If required, only deliver CPR via chest compressions or defibrillator (no rescue breaths). After providing first aid, particular attention should be given to hygiene measures. 	Medium
12	Challenge to effective hygiene management in the kitchen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hand sanitiser is to be used prior to touching items in the kitchen and is readily available. Sharing of any cutlery and crockery is allowed but recommended that this is done with caution. 	Medium
15	Increased risk of virus transmission in meeting rooms due to smaller space and close proximity to other staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff are encouraged to consider whether they could meet outdoors instead if weather permits. The windows and door must be open at all times when the meeting room is not in use. During meetings windows should either be open throughout (preferred) or opened periodically to allow a fresh supply of air into the room. Clear signage in the room explaining how to minimise risk when using the room. All staff are responsible for the cleaning of the meeting room after use. 	Medium

Point	Identified Risk	Risk Mitigation Measure	Residual Risk
16	Risk of transmission of virus through poor air circulation and inadequate ventilation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A range of windows should be kept open to aid circulation of fresh external air. This may be on a periodic basis. On vacating a meeting room leave doors open to allow for ventilation between meetings. 	Low
17	Increased use of same touch points when printing and photocopying	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hand sanitiser to be used before touching printer. Antibacterial spray will be provided and should be used to wipe down touch points after using printer. 	Low
18	Risk of transmission through deliveries handled by various people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No personal deliveries should be sent to Walker Books. Any post/deliveries will be collected once a day and made available for collection 	Low
20	Increased risk of exposure to infection through use of showers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practise dynamic risk assessment: where safety is compromised, leave the area or location. 	High
22	Visitors attending site for meetings bringing in virus unknowingly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clients and stakeholders are able to attend meetings in Social Finance's office however these should only take place in a meeting room. 	Medium
23	Increased risk for vulnerable workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No member of staff will be required to attend the office at this time. Social Finance will continue to engage with all staff to understand any concerns. 	Low

Point	Identified Risk	Risk Mitigation Measure	Residual Risk
24	Deterioration in general health & wellbeing linked to working in the current operating environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All staff have line managers to discuss any health and wellbeing concerns, supported by HR/COO. All staff have access to Health & Wellbeing Plan, and Manual of Me tools to support their wellbeing. All staff have access to internal Mental Health First Aiders. All staff have access to Mindful Employer Adviceline, providing confidential professional help and support. A wellbeing guide is available on the intranet. 	Medium
25	Risk of transmission between colleagues attending the office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An attendance register will be kept for each day for Track and Trace purposes. If staff who want to return to the office wish to self-test individually, rapid lateral flow tests can be picked up at a pharmacy or ordered online at https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests. This is not mandatory and Social Finance will not be carrying out on-site testing. If anyone in the office experiences symptoms and is diagnosed with COVID-19 they should follow the following procedure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following a positive test, you will be contacted by Test and Trace. Please provide contact details for Social Finance. If you have been in close contact with anyone within the 48 hours before symptoms started, provide names and contact details for these. For Social Finance staff, this can be through HR if you do not have contact details. Please notify Social Finance HR as soon as possible including details of when symptoms first started so we can notify all staff present on that day to look out for symptoms and be tested if required. 	Medium
26	Risk Assessment becomes out of date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk assessment will be reviewed weekly with changes documented and new version released where needed. 	Low

General Notes	Comments
Risk Assessments	This risk assessment is used in conjunction with that issued by Walker Books. For the avoidance of doubt, where there are differences in advice between the two, this document takes precedence except where specifically mentioned above.
General Hygiene Measures	<p>Staff should adhere to the following general hygiene measures while on-site:</p> <p>Wash hands on arrival to the site, and at regular intervals throughout the day, for at least 20 seconds each time with soap and water. If this is not practical, hand sanitiser has been placed on each desk and also issued to all office-based staff.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catch coughs and sneezes in a tissue and dispose of tissue in a bin immediately. • If there is no tissue to hand, cough or sneeze into the elbow instead. • Wash or sanitise hands each time this happens. • Practise dynamic risk assessment: where safety is compromised, leave the area or location. • Disinfectant spray and tissue paper has been provided at each desk for regular sanitising throughout the day.