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Supporting our workforce and clients during the spread of COVID-19

The COVID-19 situation is continually changing and as an agile single site business, we can adapt quickly to the changes. It is vital that we do our part to support global efforts to contain the spread of infection. We want you to know that we are doing everything we can to minimise the risk to our workforce whilst also minimising disruption to our clients' projects should the situation escalate.

So far, we are not materially affected by COVID-19 and with our remote location in the North East of England, which currently has a lower number of cases compared to the rest of the UK, we are well positioned to continue to support our clients at this time. We have contingency strategies and plans in place to cope with the supply of essential materials and services, and staff absence. We anticipate no impact at this time to our work and commitment to clients around the world.

We can reassure you that we are following current government guidelines and Travel Advisories for various regions. The safety of our workforce is our highest priority and we have comprehensive strategies in place to manage the situation if someone within our organisation tests positive for COVID-19.

Visitor policy

The current UK Government advice is that those that have visited Category 1 areas should self-isolate for 14 days following return. Any staff or visitors returning from these areas will not be allowed on site until they have been confirmed by a health official as not having the virus.

Staff and visitors from Category 2 or uncategorised areas will be allowed on site so long as they are not showing any of the symptoms of the virus as outlined above. Visitor hosts should make all visitors to Arcinova aware of these restrictions prior to their travel starting and the visitors should confirm whether they fall under these restrictions or not.

We will continue to monitor advice and guidance from the World Health Organization and the Government, and will adjust our plans in line with the most up-to-date information.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with your Arcinova host if you have any questions.

FAQs

Do you anticipate the current coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak will impact your ability to supply materials / services that you have been supplying us, e.g. capacity reduction, delivery delays, people and talent etc?

At present, we have not been materially affected by COVID-19. Key materials remain available and we have suffered no reduction in capacity.

Are you actively managing contingency plans linked to the current coronavirus outbreak?

We are currently in the process of assessing the potential impact of COVID-19 and have identified around 50 potential risks to our business, ranging from material supply and critical spares to maintenance contracts and reduced internal capacity due to absence. These risks are being mitigated, with the highest impact ones prioritised. Plans are already in place.

Are you assessing any impact of the outbreak on your suppliers for materials and services?

We have around 200 regular suppliers for materials and services. At present we are assessing those that, were they to stop supply, would seriously impact our operations. Currently we believe this number to be around 5%, and these will be specifically requested to provide us with their contingency plans so that they can continue to supply us.

Do you have alternate facilities you could source from?

No, however, we are located in a rural area, 35 miles (55km) from our nearest city (Newcastle). The North East has reported the fewest number of cases of COVID-19 in England to date and we have a young demographic within our workforce, which are the lowest risk group of serious infection.

Are your procurement teams aware of any product specific intelligence that would indicate current supply shortages are going to be exacerbated by the coronavirus outbreak?

Not presently - although anecdotally, materials supplied from China are taking longer than usual to arrive.

Would you be able to increase inventory of materials needed to support productions/services?

Yes, we are in the process of increasing our minimum stock days of critical solvents, gases, PPE and chemicals to 28 days (4 weeks).

Do you anticipate shortages of any raw materials, reagents, packaging components, equipment, personnel, or PPE needed/logistics issues to support your production/service?

So far, we have not had any supply problems. We are in contact with critical suppliers and are examining their contingency plans for supply.

What is your current travel policy?

Our current travel policy is in line with current UK Government advice. We have stopped all business travel to Category 1 affected areas and recommend no travel to Category 2 affected areas. All other travel is permitted should the traveller be personally prepared to travel based on their own assessment of their risk group. Similarly, we are accepting all visitors other than those that have travelled from or through Category 1 areas or are displaying symptoms of COVID-19 infection.

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