

AVA SUMMARY OF BUSINESS GUIDANCE ON CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) – Issue 2

A guide for AVA members. Do pass on to others in your organisation who you feel may benefit from this information.

What is coronavirus or COVID-19

A coronavirus is a type of virus. Coronaviruses are common across the world and COVID-19 is a new strain of coronavirus, first identified in Wuhan City, China in January 2020.

The incubation period of COVID-19 is between 2-14 days. This means that if a person remains well 14 days after contact with someone confirmed with coronavirus, they have not been infected.

NHS Guidance can be found here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Current advice is:

Stay at home for 7 days if you have either:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital.

Generally, this infection can cause more severe symptoms in people with weakened immune systems, older people, and those with long-term conditions like diabetes, cancer and chronic lung disease.

The spread of COVID-19 is most likely to happen when there is close contact (within 2 metres or less) with an infected person. It is likely that the risk increases the longer someone has close contact with an infected person.

Respiratory secretions produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes containing the virus are most likely to be the main means of transmission.

Current understanding is that the virus doesn't live on surfaces for longer than 72 hours.

How to avoid catching or spreading coronavirus:

DO:

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- always wash your hands when you get home or into work
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards
- try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell

Automatic Vending Association

Concept House, Cromwell Office Park, York Road, Wetherby, LEEDS LS22 7SU

the-ava.com

Tel: +44 (0) 3300 883 267

DON'T:

- do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean

Vending Operator Guidance:

When an operator enters a building, they should wash their hands if they think the standard of hygiene in the building is OK. If not, they should wipe their hands with an alcohol wipe.

Operators should, like all food operators, avoid touching their face.

If they are filling a snack machine, they will not be passing on anything because hands are not good at passing on contamination. When finished, the operator should wipe the keypad and dispense area with an alcohol wipe. If they are cleaning a drinks machine, they should make sure the parts they clean are bone dry when they have finished.

When they have finished with the machine, the operator should wipe the nozzle and the keypad with an alcohol wipe.

What about machines where an operator is subsequently diagnosed with coronavirus?

While there is no clear evidence about whether you can pick up the virus from a surface, this is recognised to be a less common route than getting it directly from another person. Viruses do not stay alive for long periods on surfaces and will be removed with detergent and hot water.

Therefore, someone going to a machine which has been refilled by someone who is subsequently diagnosed with the virus is highly unlikely to catch the virus from the machine. The best thing to do is to clean the surface of the machine that an operator needs to touch with detergent and water, dry it and wipe over with an alcohol wipe.

Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy: COVID-19 Support for Business

The Chancellor has set out a package of temporary, timely and targeted measures to support public services, people and businesses through this period of disruption caused by COVID-19.

This includes a package of measures to support businesses including:

- a statutory sick pay relief package for SMEs
- a Business Rate Relief for small businesses and pubs
- small business grant funding of £3,000 for all business in receipt of Small Business Rates Relief (SBRR) and Rural Rates Relief
- the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme to support long-term viable businesses who may need to respond to cash-flow pressures by seeking additional finance

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- the HMRC Time To Pay Scheme
- More detail can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/covid-19-support-for-businesses>

Best practice from the Government offices and other organisations:

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has provided guidance for British people travelling and living overseas More here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19>

The official guidance from the Department of Health and Social Care, and Public Health England, is here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

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