**Function, Task or Activity:** Managing Provision of the Health, Safety & Wellbeing of all individuals entering Ascentis House premises during Covid-19 pandemic

Date of this assessment: 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Name of Person Completing Assessment: Bernie Gudgeon/Emma Brzezinka/Fiona Lugiano

**Assessment to be reviewed on:** In the event of any change in government rules/guidelines or any specific feedback from employees

What are the significant hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What is being done to control this risk now?	Can you do anything else to lower the risk further?	Action By Who?	By when?
		Symptoms of Covid-19			
Spread of Covid-19	Employees, Non- employees, Contractors, Visitors, Workers  Exposure from others and to others	Any individual that is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, including a new continuous cough, high temperature or loss/change of taste/smell, must stay at home and not enter the premises. They must advise their line manager of their symptoms. This process must be made clear to individuals in advance, so that they do not inadvertently attend the premises with COVID-19 symptoms.	Internal communication channels and cascading of messages through line managers to be carried out regularly to reassure and support employees in a fast changing situation  Line managers will offer support to staff who are affected by Coronavirus or has a family member affected.	All employees  All managers and supervisors	Immediate Ongoing
	due to:-  1. Living with someone with a confirmed case of Covid	If anyone becomes unwell with a new continuous cough, high temperature or a loss of taste/smell in the workplace they are to advise their line manager immediately, go home and follow the stay at home guidance, as well as booking a COVID-19 test through the following website: <a href="https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-">https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-</a>	Raise awareness of the symptoms of COVID-19 to ensure staff are fully aware of the reasons why they should not come into the office if they are displaying symptoms		

19	<u>covid-19/</u>	Screens around the building can be used	
		to remind people of key COVID-19	
<b>2.</b> Hav		h health and safety messages	
come	_		
close			
conta			
(with		c	
	there are a f COVID 10 are distent with the		
	:) Willia	HE	
	hoolth average as to make the average at the		
	of Covid outbreak and assist with identifying contacts.		
19			
a Dai	All employees contact numbers and		
3. Bei	emergency contact numbers have been		
	c health updated		
· ·	cy that		
	As employees enter the office premises, their		
	attendance will be logged to support with any		
case	tost and trace that may be required		
occu			
0000	All employees must follow the self-isolation		
4.	rules set out by the government. This is in the		
	irmation event that the employee, a member of their		
	household, or a member of their support bubb		
test a	as a contracts any coronavirus symptoms, is tested		
	t of a positive for coronavirus, is told to isolate by NI	HS	
test	carried Test and Trace, or if they are awaiting		
out b	by a coronavirus test results. The self isolation rule	S	
medi	ical and lengths of time an individual must self		
profe	essional, isolate, are kept up to date here:		
	https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-		

drive through	covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/how-			
testing center	long-to-self-isolate/			
or a home				
test	As employees enter the office premises, they			
	are to sign in using their ID card on the sensor in			
	the porch. This helps us to trace any individuals			
	on site, should there be a case of COVID-19.			
	Hand Washing and Personal Hygiene			
	Hand washing facilities with soap and hot	Employees to be regularly reminded to	All	Immediat
	water in place.	wash their hands for 20 seconds with	employees	On-Going
	·	warm water and soap and the	, ,	·
	Stringent hand washing taking place.	importance of proper drying – use of		
		signage around office to remind		
	Where fitted, hand dryers for drying of	employees of hand washing	Signage -	
	hands – users should ensure their hands	requirements.	H&S	
	are fully dry before leaving the cubicle.	·	Committee	
		Employees to be regularly reminded to		
	Paper towels are provided where hand	catch coughs and sneezes in tissues	Adequate	
	dryers are not fitted – these are to be	and to avoid touching face, eyes, nose	stock of	
	placed immediately into bins and hands	or mouth with unclean hands – paper	supplies –	
	washed before and after using the bins.	towels to be provided around the	Estates/	
		building (and where necessary on	Cleaning	
	Gel sanitizer in place in any area where	desks) and bins to dispose of paper	Contractors	
	washing facilities are not available and also at	towels are provided in each area of the		
	key areas on site, including at the reception	office. (Used Tissues and Paper Towels		
	desk and throughout each floor.	should be disposed of immediately in		
		the nearest bin and not stored on		
	For doors with keypads that cannot be left open,	desks or under keyboards)		
	individuals are to sanitize their hands on either			
	side of the door. For the main front door, hands	Refresh and update screens/posters		

must be sanitized immediately after entering the door.  To avoid any allergic reaction, the contents of the hand sanitizers to be communicated electronically to all staff in the Ascentis handbook.  If staff choose to bring in their own hand sanitizer, they should use one that contains at least 60% alcohol and not share this with others.  Those handling papers, should minimise the passing of papers to other individuals. However, before and after handling any paperwork, individuals must sanitise or wash their hands in case any paper sharing is required.  Regular checks of the stock of sanitizer and soap to ensure we always have an adequate supply.	with advisory signage regularly so it doesn't become 'wallpaper' or illegible if it is located outside  Moisturizer to be provided in bathrooms.  Regularly check that the hand sanitizer ingredients have not changed.  Employees to be provided with their own personal hand sanitizer to keep with their belongings and at their desk.		
Cleaning Procedures are in place for the Cleaning Contractor to frequently clean and disinfect objects and surfaces that are touched regularly particularly in areas of high use such as key pads, stairs and door handles, light switches, water cooler, zip taps, coffee machine, vending machines, bins, scanners/printers/photocopiers, reception area, desks and office equipment (including phone handsets) etc. using appropriate	Cleaning spray and paper towels are provided throughout the building, at the tea points. Cleaning spray can be found underneath the sinks and in cupboards in meeting rooms. Individuals should use cleaning sprays throughout the day as and when necessary on frequently touched surfaces, i.e. the photocopier.	All employees Cleaning Contractor	Immediate On-Going

cleaning products and methods.  Bins are to be emptied once a day, unless they become full sooner than this – this will be kept under review.	Where blinds are being used or when the air conditioning units are being operated, individuals are to wash or sanitize their hands before and after operating them.		
The cleaning service provider has a business continuity plan in place to cover their own unplanned sickness and absence.  Cleaners are using appropriate certificated materials for daily preventative cleaning with clear usage methodology.	Clear desk policy to keep surfaces clear, so that cleaning can be carried out more effectively. Employees can have their own personal box of their belongings (HotBox), to be removed from the desk they are using at the end of the day and placed into their personal locker.  When employees are bringing equipment into the workplace from their home (e.g. returning an office chair or their laptop), this should be cleaned by the employee using the sanitizing equipment.		
<u>Ventilation</u>	<u> </u>	All employees	Immediate
The issue of fresh air throughout the building has been considered in full.	If employees need fresh air at any point, they should exit the building. Employees are to be encouraged to go outside on	Key Holders	Ongoing
There are no opening windows within the building, however the air conditioning at Ascentis House is a mechanical ventilation system, continuously replacing used air from the inside with fresh air from outside.	their break for fresh air.		
Any areas in the building that have a different means of ventilation have been marked as out of bounds, or have various restrictions on use – signage indicates this.			

The office is mainly open plan and a large area, which helps to lower the risk as there is more air to dilute any COVID-19 virus, and takes longer for aerosols to build up. Employees are encouraged to use the larger, open plan spaces for working than the smaller, enclosed spaces.			
Desk fans are not to be used in any poorly ventilated areas.			
Fire doors are not to be propped open for fresh air.			
Where employees are using work vehicles, ventilation systems should be set to draw in fresh air and not recirculate it. Employees are also encouraged to leave vehicle windows open. If it's cold they can leave the heating on to keep the vehicle comfortable.			
Take Care with Use of Shared Facilities  Employees are to use their own personal mug, glass, utensils and any other crockery. Employees are provided with their own cups with lids, for them to use around the building. No used crockery or utensils are left in the kitchen – they must be cleared away immediately after use and put away with the employees' personal belongings.	Ensure no sharing of crockery or utensils takes place.  Should hospitality (e.g. lunch) be required, then visitors will need to be taken off site.  Regular checks to be carried out to ensure furniture has not been moved and that social distancing is adhered to.	All employees	Immediately Ongoing

Individuals should make their own drinks and not make them for others.

In the event of external visitors and hospitality requirements, food will not normally be offered on site. In exceptional cases where food is offered on site then hand hygiene and social distancing must be maintained at all times. Visitors' crockery are to be washed in the dishwasher before and after use. Guests are to make their own drinks or if more appropriate given a fresh, clean glass of water.

Staff room — chairs and tables can be sprayed with a disinfectant before sitting. Cups without lids or food items that are unwrapped are not to be carried through the building.

Shared kitchen facilities e.g. toaster, zip taps, microwave, fridge – individuals are to wash or sanitize their hands before and after use.

No stationery should be shared – e.g. Pens should not be taken from someone else's desk.

Where individuals use lockers, they are assigned their own locker.

Individuals are to keep hold of their own personal belongings (e.g coats and bags) i.e. storing them under their desk or on the back their chair (as long as this does not cause a trip

Individuals are encouraged to use the stairs, rather than the lift. If individuals need to the use the lift then it should be occupied by one person at any one time. The lift is generally only recommended for us for deliveries and for people with disabilities or reduced mobility.

hazard or any DSE issues). Coat cupboards cannot currently be used. Where employees are storing belongings in the changing room e.g. towels or wet coats, these are not to touch other employees' belongings. Showers – where employees use the showers, the users must clean it and the shower curtain after use, using bathroom sanitizer spray. Individuals using shared reading materials (e.g. shared books) must keep these on the office premises and must wash their hands before and after use. Wash your hands before and after using shared facilities, including: Xbox Pool table Harry Potter room and various Harry Potter items • Celebration station – wheel of fortune Herb garden • Remote control for various screens, blinds, air conditioning system Write-on-walls, pens and magnets etc. Printers/scanners/franking machine Screens Hair straighteners and hair dryer Cushions

Social Distancing			
As far as reasonably practical, measures have	Staff to be reminded on a regular	All	Immediate
been implemented to ensure the number of	basis of the requirement of social	Managers	On-Going
persons in any work area comply with the 2	distancing both in the workplace and		
metre rule as instructed by the UK	outside of it in accordance with the	All	
Government.	UK government instructions	Supervisors	
These various measures are documented	Regular Management checks to	All	
below:	ensure all social distancing measures	Employed	
	are being adhered to including	staff	
Processes have been redesigned to ensure	entry/exit, offices, meeting rooms,		
social distancing is in place – signage at the	locker rooms, staff room and	All	
point of arrival and on screens throughout the	smoking area	Agency	
building to remind of 2 metre spacing required.		staff	
	Discourage hand shaking and		
At finish times, employees are to ensure they	general close personal greetings.	All	
maintain social distance in the corridors and at		Contractors	
doors, delaying exit where required.	Remind staff who do not live in the	/visitors	
	same household not to car share.		
Some employees will continue to work from	Encourage staff, where possible, to walk		
home to reduce number of workers on site at	or cycle to work and if possible to avoid		
any one time.	public transport.		
Signage marks out where individuals can sit	Remind staff that if they have any		
in all shared areas.	concerns with regards to social		
	distancing, they should raise them with		
Toilets on all floors: Only one person should	their Line Manager in the first instance.		
use the ladies' and men's toilets at any one	The concerns will be reviewed and		
time. To check if someone is in the toilet,	relevant action will be taken, where		
individuals should knock on the door and shout	necessary, to rectify the concerns.		
as entering, to check if anyone is in there.			
	Where possible, reduce the number of		
2m distance between desks, to ensure			

individuals are a minimum of 2m apart. Where individuals have to pass one another to go to another part of the office, they must not stop and talk if there is not a 2m distance whilst they pass one another.

Individuals who are sat back to back, must not turn and speak to each other. If they need to talk they must either do so via Teams or move away from the desk are to a meeting room but ensure that social distancing takes place at all times.

Local lockdowns to be kept under constant review by HR and all employees. Any member of staff who lives in an area of local lockdown, subject to the government guidance associated with it, may be required to work from home instead of the office.

Individuals should take care not to cross on staircases, and to shout out before going up or down stairs to make sure there is not someone else on the stairway.

Where printers are situated behind desks that are in use, employees should use a different printer or if absolutely necessary then they should ask the individual to move away from their desk whilst the printer is used.

people each person has contact with by using 'fixed teams' or bubbles (so each person works with only a few others)

Reduce movement around site by discouraging non- essential trips within the buildings. Encourage use of internal telephones/Teams

Where practical, avoid the use of hot desks and personnel sharing equipment. Where this is not possible, ensure workstations are regularly cleaned after each user.

If staff leave the premises on their lunch break, they should maintain social distancing and should not car share.

Where necessary, a staff room rota is to be drawn up to ensure the maximum numbers are not exceeded and to allow teams enough time to eat their food/use the various facilities during breaks.

Screens around the building reminds all to maintain 2m social distance.

Break times may be staggered where

	necessary, to ensure adequate use of facilities whilst social distancing.		
Meeting Restrictions Unless they cannot be avoided, all meetings should take place via MS Teams.  If meetings cannot be avoided there should be no more than the numbers allowed in each meeting room used. The meeting room should be of adequate size so that the 2 meter social distancing should be adhered to. Signage indicates seating arrangements.	Monitor meeting rooms and check empty offices on site to ensure compliance  If any non-compliance is observed it must be challenged.  Use hand sanitizer provided in meeting rooms	All Managers All Supervisors	Immediate On-Going
Employees Working from Home Where They Can  We continue to follow government rules regarding employees working from home if they can, to reduce the number of individuals on office premises.		All employees	Immediate Ongoing
Office workers who can work from home should do so. Anyone else who cannot work from home should go to the office. In considering those who cannot work from home, this includes assessing how home working could affect mental or physical health difficulties, or those with a particularly challenging home working environment.			

All employees have been consulted with regarding their working environment whilst the 'work from home if you can' rule is in place.  We are monitoring the wellbeing of people who are working from home and helping them stay connected to the rest of the team, particularly where the majority of their team are working in the office.  All employees working from home have regular check ins with their line manager to ensure their working arrangements are adequate. This includes discussing welfare, mental and physical health and personal security.  We have provided equipment for people to work at home safely and effectively, (including remote access to work systems) accounting for different types of needs, including the needs of people with disabilities.	Ongoing training and HR support to be provided to line managers regarding discussing welfare, mental and physical health and personal security.	HR	Ongoing
Identification of any clinically vulnerable individuals who are required to work at our premises & Equality of Opportunity/Measures			
Any individual concerns about the working environment, any health vulnerabilities and any caring responsibilities that may impede an employee's ability to attend work premises or	Where an employee identifies a health condition or disability and they are required/desire to enter the office, the line manager will reassure them of the control measures in place and discuss	Line managers & HR	Immediate Ongoing

work from home effectively, are considered and discussed prior to re-entry to the office.  Where an employee is identified as clinically extremely vulnerable to COVID-19, in most cases they will continue to work from home wherever possible whilst Coronavirus is still considered to be a risk, unless there is an urgent business need that must be carried out in the office (in which case, all of the COVID-19 health and safety measures outlined in this risk assessment must be followed at all times).  Where individuals have a protected characteristic, ensure they are communicated with to best understand the degree of risk they are exposed to. Consider whether there are any adjustments or measures to put in place to avoid putting those individuals at a disadvantage. This may involve carrying out an individual risk assessment for those individuals, or adapting an existing individual risk assessment (e.g for pregnant employees).	any necessary, reasonable adjustments to health and safety measures in place.		
Workplace Testing for COVID-19			
The issue of workplace testing for COVID-19 has been considered in full.	Remind all employees that even if they have recently received a negative test result through a test they have taken at	All employees	Immediate
As we have limited numbers of individuals at	home, this does not make them exempt		
office premises, with social distancing clearly	from any of the COVID-19 health and		
maintainable throughout the building, stringent	safety measures in place such as social		
hygiene measures in place and clear rules around	distancing and hygiene controls.		

not attending office premises with any symptoms of COVID-19, regular workplace testing is not deemed necessary.  Anyone with coronavirus symptoms can get a free NHS test.  The use of COVID-19 workplace testing will be reviewed should the numbers of individuals in the office environment increase and the risk of COVID-19 still deemed high by the UK government.			
COVID-19 Vaccinations  Individuals being vaccinated COVID-19 vaccinations should reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission significantly.  All employees have been encouraged to accept COVID-19 vaccinations and are given paid time off during working hours, where necessary, to	Remind all employees that even if they have received their vaccine, this does not make them exempt from any of the COVID-19 health and safety measures in place such as social distancing and hygiene controls.	All managers and supervisors, and HR	Immediate
attend vaccination appointments.  It is important to note that the vaccination protects the individual to a certain level, but not transmission of the virus to those around them. Some employees may not be able to have the COVID-19 vaccination due to health reasons or personal reasons.  Asking employees to declare whether they have	Where necessary, consider paid time off for any employees that have side effects post COVID-19 vaccine, so that the risk of unpaid time off does not deter vaccination uptake.	Leadership Team	

had the vaccine does not at this stage assist in us controlling the risk of COVID-19, as all of the other control measures are in place and those who have been vaccinated are not exempt from any of the other control measures. Declaration of vaccinations may be reviewed in the future, if other control measures are removed such as social distancing, but we will follow government advice regarding this.		
Wearing of Face Coverings Where individuals that might be harmed are to come into contact with another person, less than 2m away (but this is not required in the office), they must wear a face covering over their nose and mouth. In other circumstances, it is not necessary to wear a face covering as the additional protection is provides in non-clinical settings is extremely limited - this is in line with government/HSE guidance.	In the rare case where two or more employees are required to work between less than 2m away from each other (to carry out a specific task), they should use a face covering. In this event, the employer will provide disposable face coverings to employees.	
If individuals choose to wear a face covering, to minimise the risk of transmission of COVID-19, they should follow this guidance:  • Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser before putting a face covering on, and before and after removing it.  • When wearing a face covering, avoid	Where face coverings are used, make appropriate adjustments to the types of face coverings when communicating with any individuals who rely on lip reading, facial expressions and clear sound.	

touching your face or face covering, as you

could contaminate them with germs from your hands.  Change your face covering if it becomes damp or if you've touched it.  Continue to wash your hands regularly.  Change and wash your face covering daily.  If the material is washable, wash in line with manufacturer's instructions. If it's not washable, dispose of it carefully in your usual waste.  Practice social distancing of at least 1m. Please be mindful that the wearing of a face covering may inhibit communication with people who rely on lip reading, facial expressions and clear sound.  Face coverings are not a replacement for the other control measures in this risk assessment.		
Gloves The use of gloves is not required unless otherwise specified in this risk assessment. If individuals wish to wear gloves voluntarily, they must be disposable and disposed of immediately after use (if you are touching more than one item, a separate, new pair of disposable gloves must be worn).		
Travel to Work Guidance Where workers are using their own transport to travel to work, they are to follow social distancing and hand sanitising guidelines at all times.	If a worker has no alternative but to use public transport methods to get to work and cannot source a face covering themselves, the employer will provide the	

Workers travelling to work using public transport are to wear a face covering.	worker with an adequate supply of face coverings, in order to facilitate the travel to work.		
It is advised that car sharing between employees should not take place unless they are from the same household.	Line managers to discuss timing of public transport and alter working		
	patterns of employees accordingly, to further minimize the risk of an employee coming into contact with others (e.g. where necessary, using public transport outside of peak times).		
Business Travel Restrictions  Business related travel will only be required for exceptional reasons. A separate risk assessment will be undertaken for any required business travel.  Should a staff member need to travel on urgent company business staff should not share vehicles or cabs, where suitable distancing cannot be achieved.  Car sharing between employees for business travel should not take place unless they are from the same household.	Drivers must ensure they have adequate breaks and that they must stick to the social distance rules.	All Managers All Supervisors	Immediate On-Going
Personal Travel Quarantine Employees are aware of the government guidance on quarantine, following return from any foreign country requiring a period of quarantine on re-entry to the UK.  Employees are aware of the requirement to	Employees are encouraged to carefully consider the quarantine rules before travelling abroad.		

book enough annual leave prior to making a foreign holiday booking. In the event an employee does not have the holiday available, prior to their return to the office they can work from home.			
Mental Health Support			
Managers and HR are building mental health	Ongoing regular communication of	All	Immediate
and wellbeing awareness across the	mental health information and open	Managers	On-Going
organisation during the Coronavirus outbreak	door policy for those who need		
and are offering support throughout. This	additional support	All	
includes regular 1:1s and check ins, support	Refer to MIND guidance:	Supervisors	
from a 24/7 Employee Assistance Programme,	https://www.mind.org.uk/information-		
regular guidance and wellbeing/mental health	support/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing/		
resources communicated by HR, line manager			
mental health training etc.	All employees to be encouraged to refer to		
	the government's guidance on mental		
We recognize that some employees may feel	health and wellbeing aspects of		
anxious about working in an office environment	coronavirus pandemic: <u>Guidance for the</u>	All employees	
or continuing to work from home. Employees are	public on the mental health and wellbeing aspects of coronavirus (COVID-19) -		
encouraged to speak to their line manager about	GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)		
their concerns and to raise any suggestions about	GOV.OK (WWW.gov.uk)		
how they (or we as their employer) might be able to minimize their feelings of anxiety.			
to minimize their reenings of anxiety.			
Visitors and Contractors Rules			
Visitors and Contractors are only permitted	Avoid any unnecessary visitor	All	Immediate
onto the premises in cases where it cannot be	movement around the site. Supervise	Managers	On-Going
avoided.	all visitors and contractors and do not		Ü
	prolong the visit	All	
Visitors and Contractors are confined to	, 5	Supervisors	
strictly defined areas. They are instructed to	Remind visitors and contractors when		
use hand sanitizer stations and to follow the	entering and leaving the building to	Ops Office	
and the same comments and to romow the			

social distance guidelines.	use the hand sanitization points	staff	
Visitors are required to sign in and out as they enter the building, so that a record of their visit can be tracked in case required for track and trace purposes.	Monitor to ensure the number of visitor on site at any one time is limited  Maintain the visitor and contractor		
In the event of unplanned visitors, they are dealt with through the intercom system and where more appropriate an appointment booked to accommodate them safely. If they must enter the premises immediately, they follow social distancing and hygiene rules set out in this risk assessment and on signage displayed throughout the building.	signing in / out and induction system to a high standard		
Assidents and Emparagnaics Dress dures			
Accidents and Emergencies Procedures In an emergency, for example an accident or a fire, staff do not have to stay 2 meters apart if it would be unsafe – but they should make every effort to maintain social distancing.	Remind staff who are involved with the provision of assistance to others that they should pay particular attention to sanitation measures immediately afterwards, including washing hands  Review the contents of the First Aid kits to	Managers/ Supervisors /First Aiders	Immediate On-Going
	ensure there are masks and gloves available.		
<u>Collection and Deliveries</u> When a courier enters the premises a 2 meter	Carry out regular checks to ensure	All	Immediate
distance must be adhered to at all times whilst on the premises.	compliance	Managers	On-Going
	Ensure couriers use the hand sanitizer and hand washing facilities.	All	

Desks should be wiped down after the		Supervisors	
collection/delivery has been removed.	Table to be placed by the front door for		
	the delivery of post.	Ops Office	
		staff	
	Trolley to be used for the collection of parcels/post.		
Communication & Training			
	Asking staff to complete a COVID-19	All	Immediate
Ensure that all workers understand the	Back to Work online course through	Managers	On-Going
COVID-19 related safety procedures and	WorkRite, prior to re-entry to the office.		
internal polices / rules, prior to entry into		All	
the office.	Prior to reentry to the office, asking all staff to read and confirm their	Supervisors	
Ensure all signage is suitable for those that	understanding of the control measures		
are colour blind.	in place as a result of this risk assessment (in writing)		
As and when there is any change to the			
health and safety control measures, or any	Display the 'COVID-19 Secure in 2020'		
changes to national rules governing office	poster in the building – displayed on	HR/Estates	
work (due to COVID-19), these will be communicated to all.	ground floor.		
	Display a completed copy of this risk	HR/Estates	
Screens around the building can be used to	assessment electronically in a central		
remind people of key COVID-19 health and	location – Sharepoint.		
safety messages			
	Make a copy of the completed risk	HR/Estates	
	assessment available on our Ascentis		
	and IDLS website.		