



STAY AT HOME

PROTECT THE **NHS**



save lives

Version 1



British Free Range Egg
Producers Association

CORONAVIRUS

Covid-19 guidelines for producers

These guidelines have been prepared to assist BFREPA members consider strategies to respond to the Covid-19/coronavirus outbreak.

The Guidelines provide protocols and contingency planning options that will assist in protecting the health of staff, their families and the broader community. They can also assist with business continuity, thereby ensuring egg supply is maintained, hen welfare is protected, egg farming businesses remain viable and staff jobs remain. The Guidelines are based on current government advice which is evolving rapidly and may be the subject of change.

About Coronavirus

How does it spread?

Coronavirus is spread person to person and is not transmitted through livestock such as laying hens. Food, including eggs, is not thought to be a source of transmission of the virus.

Coronavirus is mainly spread by:

- **Direct close contact with someone who is infected – generally within 2 metres**
- **Contact with an infected person who coughs or sneezes**
- **Someone touching their face after contact with objects or surfaces contaminated with droplets from an infected person's cough or sneeze**



Best defence

Good hand and sneeze/cough hygiene is the best way to minimise the spread

Both at home and at work, all egg farm staff should:

- Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, before and after eating, and after going to the toilet
- Cover coughs and sneezes (with a clean tissue or into your elbow), dispose of tissues, and use alcohol-based hand sanitiser afterwards
- Avoid touching the face, especially mouth, nose, and eyes
- To the greatest extent possible, stay at least 2 metres away from colleagues at all times
- Stay away from work and other people at the first sign of symptoms

Continuing strict compliance with egg farm biosecurity and hygiene practices is also critical to minimising the spread of coronavirus.

Keep staff engaged

To maximise compliance and reduce staff anxiety, employers should:

- Brief all permanent and contract staff on coronavirus risks and the business protocols that have been introduced
- Explain why the protocols are important and must be complied with
- Assure staff there is no need for panic
- Explain that the egg industry is one of many essential services that will help the country to negotiate this crisis (see travel pass template in the Members Area of the BFREPA website)
- Provide regular reminders and updates as new information becomes available
- Display prominent signage such as the poster overleaf at entry/exit points, work and common areas reminding staff of symptoms and to practice good hygiene, keep a distance of at least 2 metres and stay away from work if they are sick
- Considering ways to manage and minimise contact with suppliers and customers



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PREVENTIONS



Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze and throw the tissue away straight away

If **you have symptoms** of coronavirus, you need to **self isolate for 7 days**

If **you live with someone who has symptoms**, you need to **self-isolate for 14 days** from the day their symptoms started

Only use NHS111 if your symptoms get worse or are no better after home isolation



Stop the spr

Wash your hands



**PROTECT YOURSELF - CUSTOMERS AND STAFF - AND ENSURE FARMGATE SALES
FREQUENTLY CLEAN AND DISINFECT**

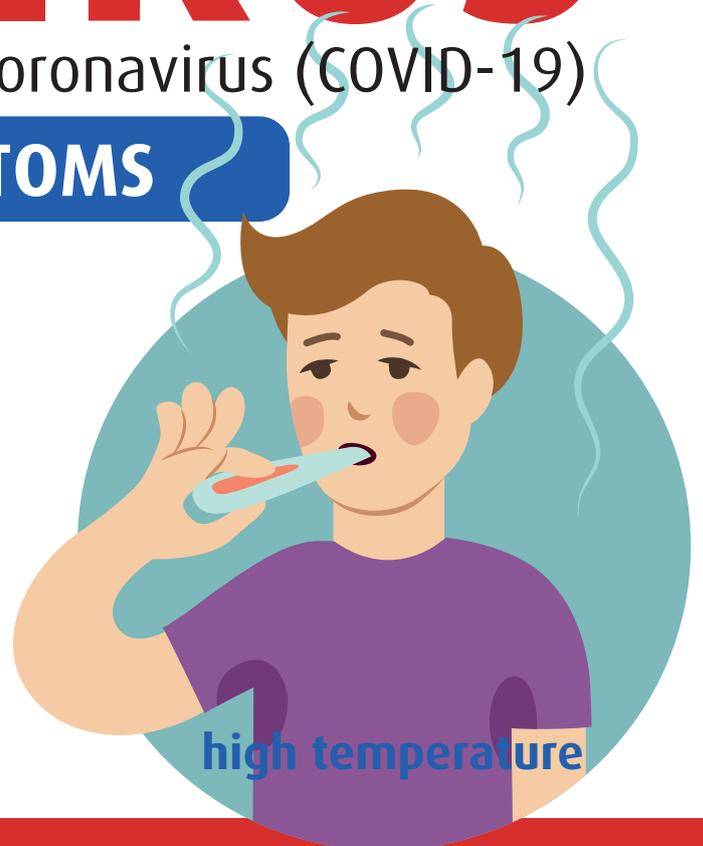
ONAVIRUS

Common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19)

SYMPTOMS



new and continuous cough



high temperature

Head of coronavirus

more often and for 20 seconds



AREAS REMAIN CLEAN, PROVIDING SOAP AND WATER OR A HAND SANITISER
CT YOUR FARMGATE SALES AREAS

Contingency Planning Welfare

Hen welfare will have to be carefully managed in the event of staff disruption

Farms must:

- Ensure feed and water availability is maintained
- Consider scenarios and response plans to ensure welfare is not compromised
- Prioritise staff to ensure welfare standards are maintained

Supply chain disruption

Businesses need to consider any supplies and services that could be disrupted, and contingency plans to minimise those disruptions

This includes investigating:

- Availability and alternative suppliers of PPE, sanitisers, cleaning agents
- Alternative suppliers of inputs which may be impacted by coronavirus
- Availability of service providers required for business continuity



Customers

Maximise the ability of customers to be flexible in response to supply disruption.

This includes investigating:

- Let customers know the steps taken to prepare
- Keep customers regularly updated on developments

Reduced workforce

Contingency arrangements in the event of a diminished workforce need to be carefully thought through

Businesses should ask:

- Is there alternative labour available?
- How could new staff be trained in the context of coronavirus?
- Could the mix of egg products be adjusted to reduce labour requirements?
- Can available labour be used differently to maximise coverage?
- Can eggs be diverted to other egg farms, egg traders or pulp facilities?

On-farm egg sales

The loss of staff due to coronavirus could have a much greater impact than the loss of sales.

To manage this risk:

- **Maintain a clear delineation of staff involved in on-farm sales and other activities**
- **Consider steps to manage biosecurity and hygiene of customers entering the farm**
- **Consider options for conducting sales off-site**
- **Any food handler who is unwell should not be at work. If they have symptoms, they should follow government advice and stay at home**
- **Use floor markings to facilitate compliance with the social distancing advice of 2 metres – both inside the food business and in the external public areas where customers may need to queue**
- **Provide additional pop-up handwashing stations or facilities if possible, providing soap, water and hand sanitiser**
- **Encourage the use of contactless payments where possible, without disadvantaging older or vulnerable customers**
- **Consider delivery services and taking orders online or by telephone in advance**
- **Consider temporarily cancelling on-farm egg sales if safe measures cannot be implemented**

