

All Member Communication – COVID-19 Response

Dear Member,

Given all that is going on in across our industry and the whole country, OGUK will ensure it keeps you, our members, up to date with everything that is going on through weekly COVID-19 updates.

It's a very worrying and challenging time for us all as everyone in the industry works flat out to respond to the incredibly difficult issues of COVID19 as well as the oil price crash and ongoing low oil prices.

It is our intention to keep you as up to-date as we can with the challenging environment that we are all living and working in.

As you know, things are moving very quickly and there are many issues that need to be tackled and so we hope you find this update helpful and if you do have queries that are not addressed, please contact the team and we will aim to get back to you as soon as possible. You can reach us at:

incidentmanagement@oilandgasuk.co.uk

You can also find recent information, policy and advice on our website:

<https://oilandgasuk.co.uk/coronavirus-covid-19-update/>

Please stay safe and stay connected.

Kind regards

OGUK Team

Breaking News Members will have seen today that oil and gas personnel are to be included as key sector workers for the purposes of allowing their children to attend schools. More details to follow....

Business Outlook 2020

With the publication of its Business Outlook, OGUK has called for government support to ensure the sector can continue to provide security of supply as it seeks to deal with the current challenges. Business Outlook: Markets and Investment report. You can read our Business Outlook: Markets and Investment report in full [here](#).

General Update

Europe is currently the epicentre of the COVID-19 pandemic and community transmission of COVID-19 is established. Some national governments have taken the decision to limit / prevent international travel to and from European countries and the UK. The UK government has moved from the “contain” to “delay” phase and as a result, previous advice has now been withdrawn and updated.

As expected, this has meant significant changes to the way we work and socialise, and most importantly the way we individually act to minimise the spread of infection.

All members are encouraged to stay up to date with and continue to follow government advice on responding to COVID-19 and to communicate with their workforce and supply chain on how that advice is being implemented in their operations.

If we can be of any help, please contact us directly with your queries that can be sent to incidentmanagement@oilandgasuk.co.uk or through your Key Account Manager.

There is wide-ranging advice on many topics available from Public Health England and Health Protection Scotland on how best to minimise transmission of the virus within the workplace. This advice is revised and new guidance produced continuously as more is learned about the virus.

Regularly updated guidance and resources can be found on the following web pages:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance>

<https://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/a-to-z-of-topics/covid-19/>

UK agencies are co-ordinating to ensure that advice is consistent across the country.

OGUK Pandemic Steering Group

The PSG has received many offers of help from members and non-members alike. We appreciate these and we are working to respond to your individual queries. It is important in times like these that we work together to share information.

IMT

As some of you will be aware, OGUK is now undertaking remote working as advised by the UK government to those who can. At the same time it has established an Incident Management Team (IMT) which is comprised of these sub teams:

- ***Supply Chain***
- ***HSE/Operations***
- ***Communications and Stakeholder Engagement***

If you wish to make contact on any of these areas then please contact the IMT mailbox for this information.

Restricting Travel to Offshore Installations

There is now no official requirement to take additional measures when returning to the UK from other countries. The government monitoring, identification and communication of high-risk areas (known as Category 1 and 2) has now been discontinued.

As a result, the common industry travel policy agreed and communicated last week has now been revised. Industry policy is now that personnel will not be permitted to travel offshore if:

- They have experienced either a new continuous / persistent cough, or a high temperature in the last seven days
- They share a household with someone who has experienced those symptoms within the last 14 days

- Individual operators may risk assess personnel in addition based upon their international travel in the past 14 days

In addition to this, a PSG proposal to adopt as standard industry policy temperature screening individuals prior to entry to heliports was accepted by the OGUK Board. Installation operators are advised to co-ordinate with each other, medical providers and heliport base operators to implement, and a clinical protocol for the testing has been shared.

Offshore Operational Response

The goal of the offshore oil and gas industry in responding to COVID-19 is to ensure the welfare of our people and maintain safe operations while delivering security of supply to the country.

Installation operators will be implementing local operational procedures and government and healthcare agency advice to minimise the risk and manage the consequences of infections offshore. In many cases these will build on existing routine procedures, modified to include new advice as more is learnt about the virus and society's response to it.

It is inevitable that these arrangements will change as more advice is generated and response arrangements are implemented.

Areas for action include:

- Reduced manning levels
- Postponement of non-essential worksopes and activities
- Implementing enhanced hygiene routines
- Review safety and business critical roles (including vulnerable groups advice)
- Communicate to workforce: personal hygiene precautions, symptoms and what to do, what to expect onboard if others become symptomatic
- Isolation procedures: including managing catering, laundry and cleaning arrangements; and the identification of close contacts
- Planning for removal of mildly symptomatic personnel who do not need ongoing care
- Reviewing operations on normally unmanned installations (NUI)
- Arrangements for arrival onshore and onward travel of mildly symptomatic individuals
- Communication plan for topsides doctor, helicopter operators, local health protection teams

Transportation of Personnel

The challenges of implementing government advice regarding self-isolation and providing reassurance regarding infection control and prevention on offshore installations and during helicopter transportation have been resolved sufficiently to allow the resumption of crew change flights and repatriation for those with symptoms who are not critically ill.

A protocol was required in order to manage the transport of personnel from offshore assets where both symptomatic and asymptomatic workers were identified as SAR and ISAR aircraft can only be tasked in life or death circumstances.

An agreed protocol detailing a classification system of asymptomatic and symptomatic cases has been implemented with the helicopter operators to ensure the correct allocation of aircraft in circumstances where offshore personnel have to be returned to the beach.

Vulnerable Groups - Advisory

As the pandemic progresses, health professionals are learning more about the effects of the virus on the population, which means that the information about who may be more at risk is continually being updated.

Operators are using the available information to identify workers who may be at higher risk of developing severe illness if they are infected. This information can be used to communicate with workforce and to assist with risk-based decisions relating to:

- the risk to the individual of being offshore during the pandemic
- the impact on the teams who may need to look after them offshore if they do get sick
- the impact on business / safety critical roles and appropriate manning levels

The World Health Organisation highlighted that:

The virus that causes COVID-19 infects people of all ages. However, evidence to date suggests that two groups of people are at a higher risk of getting severe COVID-19 disease. These are older people (that is people over 60 years old); and those with underlying medical conditions (such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, and cancer). The risk of severe disease gradually increases with age starting from around 40 years. It's important that adults in this age range protect themselves and in turn protect others that may be more vulnerable.

https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/situation-reports/20200311-sitrep-51-covid-19.pdf?sfvrsn=1ba62e57_10

Advice published by PHE on the 16th March 2020 identified the following as elderly or vulnerable:

- aged 70 or older (regardless of medical conditions)
- under 70 with an underlying health condition listed below (i.e. anyone instructed to get a flu jab as an adult each year on medical grounds):
- chronic (long-term) respiratory diseases, such as [asthma](#), [chronic obstructive pulmonary disease \(COPD\)](#), emphysema or [bronchitis](#)
- chronic heart disease, such as [heart failure](#)
- [chronic kidney disease](#)
- chronic liver disease, such as [hepatitis](#)
- chronic neurological conditions, such as [Parkinson's disease](#), [motor neurone disease](#), [multiple sclerosis \(MS\)](#), a learning disability or cerebral palsy
- [diabetes](#)
- problems with your spleen – for example, [sickle cell](#) disease or if you have had your spleen removed
- a weakened immune system as the result of conditions such as [HIV and AIDS](#), or medicines such as [steroid tablets](#) or [chemotherapy](#)
- being seriously overweight (a BMI of 40 or above)
- those who are pregnant

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>

The NHS Green Book Chapter 19, Table 19.4 (p14) gives further detail of clinical risk groups who may be advised to get a flu jab:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/influenza-the-green-book-chapter-19>

Medical Certification and Training

- OGUK has issued an advisory note to registered examining doctors regarding arrangements for managing expiring OGUK medical certificates; reducing the burden on healthcare providers and minimising the need for travel and social contact.
 - Installation operators now have the option to accept a normal (addendum 2) certificate which has expired as being valid up to 30th June 2020
 - Examining doctors may extend a restricted (addendum 3) certificate up to 30th June 2020 on the basis of a 'remote' (i.e. not 'in-person') medical assessment
 - Contingency planning underway for revised 'minimum contact' medical assessment system in event of continued society 'social distancing'.
- HSE and MCA have advised that arrangements for expiring statutory medical certification including offshore first aider, diving medicals and ENG1 for seafarers are also under review
- OPITO have issued the following update about refresher training for offshore certification:
As a result of the outbreak, members of the workforce may be unable to undertake essential refresher training causing their offshore certification to expire.
To address this, we have implemented a certification extension, enabling employers and self-sponsored individuals to apply for an extension, if their certification expires within the next 30 days.
<https://www.opito.com/covid19>