Infection control

Top tips for research:
Make sure that you are getting information from accurate sources, and those that apply to England rather than other countries
If putting together a document with information sources from a website – it is useful to reference that site so that you can check if there have been any updates.

Risk Assessment
This is all essentially about risk management:
- Identify hazards
- Assess the risks
- Control the risks
- Record your findings
- Review the controls

The Health and Safety Executive has a simple generic risk assessment:
https://www.hse.gov.uk/simple-health-safety/risk/index.htm

but a commercial health and safety firm has also shared a risk assessment toolkit with us - which we have used internally
https://www.alcumusgroup.com/health-and-safety-and-coronavirus

- This asks you to RAG rate yourselves – and identify action required to mitigate a series of risks.
- Be aware, that risk can be greater for some people – i.e those that are vulnerable or extremely vulnerable.

Make Changes
Assume that your risk assessment will require you to make significant changes – if it doesn't – you probably haven't done it thoroughly enough.
- Change office layout – desks socially distances and not face to face
- Equipment – for use by one person only – or cleaned in between
- Routes around the building
- Communal areas
- Bubbles of employees and volunteers

Cleaning
Handwashing
- provide handwashing facilities with running water, soap and paper towels
- provide hand sanitiser at locations in addition to washrooms
- provide hand sanitiser nearby for people getting in and out of vehicles or handling deliveries, if they are unable to wash their hands

- Make sure that surfaces remain clean. This may mean increasing the level and frequency of cleaning as well as cleaning surfaces that you may not ordinarily clean.

High-touch surfaces in non-health care settings these should be identified for priority disinfection such as door and window handles, kitchen and food preparation areas, counter tops, bathroom surfaces, toilets and taps, touchscreen personal devices, personal computer keyboards, and work surfaces.

If you can't keep an area clean – i.e. a non-essential social space – then close it!

Deep cleaning: Deep cleaning is a thorough clean of all frequently touched surfaces at least once per day.

Periodic cleaning: Periodic cleaning is cleaning at different times throughout the day. Periodic cleaning can include cleaning items immediately after use as well as cleaning surfaces on a regular basis throughout a single day.

Clean equipment frequently
- Set clear guidance for the use and cleaning of toilets, showers and changing facilities to make sure they are kept clean and social distancing is achieved as much as possible
- Clean work areas and equipment between uses
- Frequently clean and disinfect objects and surfaces that are touched regularly
- If equipment like tools or vehicles are shared then clean them after each use

https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/working-safely/cleaning.htm

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings

Products
In non-health care settings, sodium hypochlorite (bleach / chlorine) may be used at a recommended concentration of 0.1% or 1,000ppm (1 part of 5% strength household bleach to 49 parts of water). Alcohol at 70-90% can also be used for surface disinfection. Surfaces must be cleaned with water and soap or a detergent first to remove dirt, followed by disinfection. Cleaning should always start from the least soiled (cleanest) area to the most soiled (dirtiest) area in order to not spread the dirty to areas that are less soiled.

All disinfectant solutions should be stored in opaque containers, in a well-ventilated, covered area that is not exposed to direct sunlight and ideally should be freshly prepared every day.

In indoor spaces, routine application of disinfectants to surfaces via spraying is not recommended for COVID-19. If disinfectants are to be applied, these should be via a cloth or wipe which is soaked in the disinfectant.

https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/q-a-considerations-for-the-cleaning-and-disinfection-of-environmental-surfaces-in-the-context-of-covid-19-in-non-health-care-settings#:~:text=In%20non%2Dhealth%20care,that%20are%20less%20soiled.

PPE
There is a lot of information about using PPE – but most of this is related to clinical settings.

https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/secondary-care/infection-control/

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-infection-prevention-and-control/covid-19-personal-protective-equipment-ppe

- Face 'coverings' are required while on public transport – with some exceptions.
- The Hospital Trust is asking all staff and visitors to wear face coverings until they get to their desk – providing that social distance can then be adhered to.
- *For areas of widespread transmission, with limited capacity for implementing control measures and especially in settings where physical distancing of at least 1 metre is not possible – such as on public transport, in shops or in other confined or crowded environments – WHO advises governments to encourage the general public to use non-medical fabric masks.*

If you are asking staff to wear face coverings – then ensure that they know how to wear them, how to change / wash / dispose of them correctly.

World Health Organisation has some really good videos about using face masks https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/when-and-how-to-use-masks Essentially - don't touch the mask itself – just the elastic, and change it if it becomes wet…

Sourcing PPE
You need to decide as an organisation what PPE you will provide, what you ask staff to provide themselves.

Source supplies in line with your own procurement policies – i.e cost, availability etc. CVS will be sending out a survey about PPE in the next few days, and it looks like we will be able to engage with the CCG supply chain – so please do respond to the survey.

Giving Clear messages
The first place to start is to assume that you, and everybody around you could be a non symptomatic carrier – the 'anyone can spread it' campaign.

- Tell people about what you have done to reduce risks – there is a HSE poster to display to show that you have completed a risk assessment.

- Also tell people what to expect before you come into contact with them – i.e that people will be asked to wash or sanitise hands upon entering, whether people will be in face masks, whether there are areas that they can / can't go etc.
- Have posters about hand washing, coughing into your elbow etc up in the building to remind people.
- You can ask staff and volunteers to watch a video about how to wash your hands correctly, or if you have a TV screen – run it on a loop?
- Have the confidence to turn people away if they are showing symptoms or are not following the guidance that you have set.

- https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/posters.html
- https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/best-way-to-wash-your-hands/
- https://www.bing.com/videos/search?view=detail&mid=B8989153F8B431775 29FB8989153F8B43177529F&shtp=GetUrl&shid=60e3fbc7-8b4f-4afb-858f-bdb2e11b1df4&shtk=UHJvcGVyIEhhbmQgV2FzaGluZyBUZWNobixdWU%3D &shdk=UHJldGVuZCB0aGUgYmxhY2sgaW5rIGlzIHNvYXAh&shhk=%2FJxZ0SF xnlPAUCovXZ12gt96qWzXT4F77HJINEjirrE%3D&form=VDSHOT&shth=OSH.hs DTEDj64G0M2jkMVwWNbA