

Covid-19 public toilet considerations

Letting someone use your toilet facilities is safer than you might think - as long as you take some precautions. Public toilet provision must be included in you Covid-19 risk assessment. Points to consider include:

Issue	Possible risk	Possible control
Access route to the toilet facilities	Narrow corridor access	Provision of designated entry and exit routes with traffic signage and ensure the routes remains clear
Queues and lack of social distancing	Queues to the toilets	Establishing safe queuing systems floor markings / signage, etc. to maintain 2m distancing between persons waiting to enter the toilets
Size / capacity of the toilet facilities – too many customers in the facilities	Customers' ability to comply with social distancing due to space limitations	Determine and ensure maximum occupancy limits for the toilet facilities – this may need monitoring at busy times
		Provision of screens between hand wash basins / urinals or closing off every other unit
		Limit access to the facility, perhaps by providing access by a key on request
		Opening any additional facilities e.g. disabled, baby change to all customers to assist distancing controls
Ventilation	Poor ventilation	Increase ventilation by opening windows and leaving extractor fans on
Hand touch surfaces	Frequently touched surfaces contaminated with Covid-19	If modesty can be maintained, securing external entry door "open" during operating hours to minimise hand contact and aid ventilation
		Provide signs and posters demonstrating good handwashing technique
		Place signs telling customers to leave the lid of the toilet seat up to reduce the number of people needing to touch it
		Provide single use cleaning materials e.g. disinfectant wipes for customer



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		use so they can wipe taps, cubical
		door locks, toilet flush, toilet seats etc.
Issue	Possible risk	Possible control
Hard surfaces (Cont)	Frequently touched surfaces contaminated with Covid	Provide hand sanitiser outside the toilet facilities
		Provide single use paper towels and a non-hand contact bin with liner for disposal
Cleaning of toilet facilities	Staff / customer safety	Review your cleaning schedule for the cleaning of toilets to increase cleaning frequency not forgetting to include all touch surfaces e.g. door handles, taps, hand flushes, soap dispensers and ensure appropriate cleaning chemicals used
		Ensure staff trained to implement the new cleaning schedule, it is advisable to keep a written record of cleaning
		Replenish liquid soap and paper towels as necessary
		(For further information see SBC Covid cleaning guide)
Poor communication of Covid controls	Poor customer knowledge	Provide clear information about your company's Covid controls: Hand washing posters, max numbers in the toilet facilities