



WILSON ADRAIN NEWS



Wilson Adrain
SAFETY MANAGEMENT LTD

**WILSON ADRAIN SAFETY MANAGEMENT
NEWSLETTER FOR MARCH 2021**

NEWS



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NEWS AND UPDATES

Training Information

We will be restarting some of our training courses, such as:

HEALTH AND SAFETY COURSES

Course Title	Duration	Candidates	
		MIN.	MAX.
Abrasive Wheels	½ Day		12
UKATA Accredited Asbestos Awareness	½ Day		15
Avoiding Accidents and ill Health at Work	½ Day		12
CDM Regulations 2015	1 Day		12
COSHH Assessments	½ Day		12
Delivering Toolbox Talks/ Instructional Techniques	½ Day		12
Environmental Awareness	½ Day		12
Fire Safety	½ Day		12
Hand Arm Vibration Syndromes Awareness	½ Day		12
Health and Safety in the Office environment	½ Day		12
Manual Handling	½ Day		12
Risk Assessment	½ Day		12
Safety Awareness	½ Day		12
Safe Use of Fire Extinguishers	½ Day		12
Safe Use of Woodworking Tools	½ Day		12
Sharps and Bio-Hazards Safety	½ Day		12
Working at Height/ Ladder Safety Awareness	½ Day		12
Working with Electricity	½ Day		12

IOSH COURSE

Course Title	Duration	Candidates	
		MIN.	MAX.
Managing Safely	3 Day	4	12
Managing Safely Refresher	1 Day	4	12
Working Safely	1 Day	4	12

Online training is also available in the following.

1. Basic Fire Safety
2. Fire Extinguisher Use
3. Fire Marshall
4. Asbestos Awareness
5. Asbestos Awareness for Architects and Designers
6. Legionella Awareness

COVID-19 IN SCOTLAND

The reopening of Scotland's economy - including shops, bars, restaurants, gyms and hairdressers - is expected to start from 26 April First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has announced.

She said it was hoped that the country's stay at home restrictions could be lifted on 5 April.

Four people from two households will be allowed to meet outdoors from 15 March.

All primary pupils and S4 to S6 secondary students could return to school from that date.

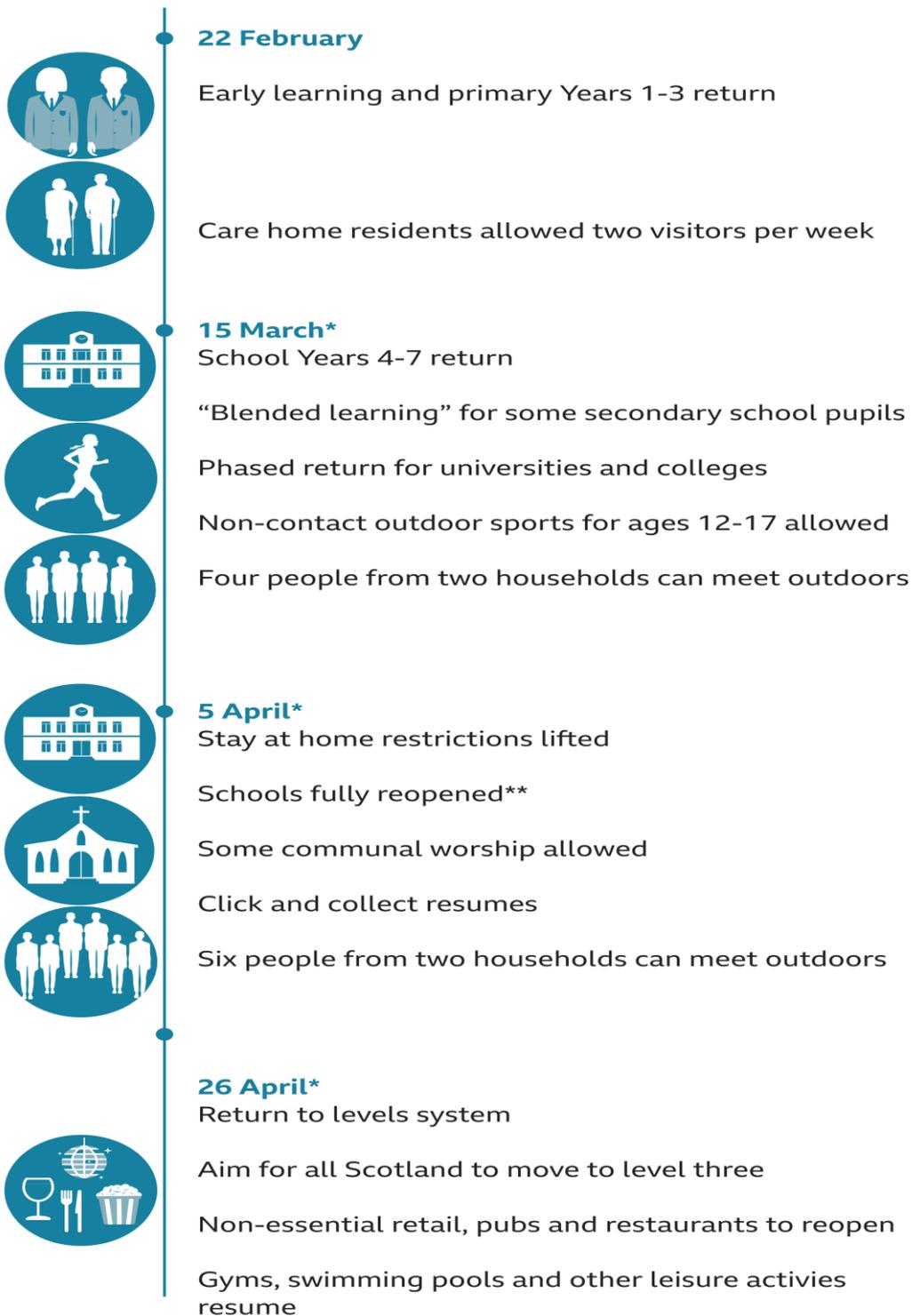
However, pupils in the first three years of secondary school are unlikely to return until after the Easter holidays.

Ms Sturgeon said the aim in Scotland was to move fully back to a levels system of restrictions from the last week in April. "At that stage, we hope that all parts of the country currently in level four will be able to move out of level four and back initially to level three - possibly with some revision to the content of the levels."

See 'Lockdown Easing: Key Dates' poster, on the next page.



Lockdown easing in Scotland: Key dates



*Possible dates

**Easter holidays start around this date

Source: Scotland government

BBC

FIT TESTING FACE MASKS

Tight-fitting respirators (such as disposable FFP3 masks and reusable half masks) rely on having a good seal with the wearer's face.

To ensure that respiratory protective equipment (RPE) will protect the wearer:

- A face fit test should be carried out the first time a worker uses a particular type of respirator
- The wearer should carry out a pre-use seal check or fit check, which they should repeat every time they put a respirator on

When carrying out a face fit test during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, testers and wearers should take additional measures to minimise the risk of transmission.

Face Fit Test

A face fit test should be carried out before people wear RPE for the first time. Inadequate fit can reduce the protection provided and lead to immediate or long-term ill health or can even put the wearer's life in danger.

A fit test should be repeated whenever there is a change to the RPE type, size, model or material, or whenever there is a change to the circumstances of the wearer that could alter the fit of the RPE, for example:

- Weight loss or gain
- Substantial dental work
- Any facial changes (scars, moles, effects of ageing etc) around the face seal area
- Facial piercings
- Introduction or change in other head-worn personal protective equipment (ppe)

There is no stipulated frequency for retesting, and you do not need to retest if there are no changes in these circumstances.



Minimise The Risk Of Transmission

To minimise the risk of transmission of COVID-19 during face fit testing the following additional measures should be taken:

- Fit testers should follow government advice on social distancing, as they can make observations from a distance and deliver any instructions verbally
- Those being fitted should keep their respirators on, as much as possible to minimise risk to the tester
- Both the fit tester and those being fit tested should wash their hands before and after the test
- Those being fit tested with non-disposable masks should clean the mask themselves before and immediately after the test using a suitable disinfectant cleaning wipe (check with the manufacturer to avoid damaging the mask)
- Test facepieces that cannot be adequately disinfected (for example disposable half masks) should not be used by more than one individual
- Fit testers should wear disposable gloves when cleaning tubes, hoods etc and ensure they remove gloves following the correct procedure
- Immediately dispose of used gloves, disposable masks, cleaning wipes etc in a waste bin

Fit testers should familiarise themselves with the following potential contact points and actions to minimise transmission:

Contact points	Action to minimise transmission
Inside and outside of respirator	After a fit test using non-disposable RPE, provide a suitable surface cleaning disinfectant wipe to the person fit tested and show them how to clean the inside and outside of the facepiece. Ensure they clean it well by providing them with clear instruction and supervising them.
Qualitative fit testing kit: Hood Nebuliser Test solution	After conducting a qualitative fit test on an individual and following the normal cleaning of the kit, ensure all parts of the fit testing kit which have the potential for the person being fit tested to have exhaled their breathe in very close proximity to it are suitably disinfected. Use a suitable surface cleaning disinfectant wipe to disinfect both the inside and the outside of the fit testing hood, leave the hood to dry before reuse, to allow sufficient contact time to maximise effectiveness of the disinfectant. The outlet of the nebuliser which is positioned inside the aperture of the fit testing hood during tests should also be suitably disinfected after each person. Disinfect the nebuliser by submerging in a disinfectant solution of the correct strength, for a sufficient contact time to ensure adequate disinfection.

Contact points	Action to minimise transmission
	Ensure that only the recommended volume of 5ml of the solutions are poured into the nebuliser saucers before each test and discard any remaining test solution remaining in the saucer at the end of each test.
Quantitative fit testing Moisture from the wearer's breath collected inside the ambient particle counting device tubing (i.e., for quantitative testing)	Clean and disinfect the tube with a suitable surface cleaning disinfectant wipe after every use. Allow tubes to dry before reuse or have a stock of spare tubes available for subsequent tests.

Contact points	Action to minimise transmission
Quantitative fit testing Fit testing adaptors and sampling probe	After a fit test, provide a suitable surface cleaning disinfectant wipe to the person fit tested and show them how to clean the fit testing adaptors and sampling probe. Ensure they clean it well by providing them with clear instruction and supervising them.
Quantitative fit testing Specific inner mask supplied by fit tester when fit testing powered RPE and the existing inner mask is replaced	After the fit test, provide a suitable surface cleaning disinfectant wipe to the person fit tested and show them how to clean the inside and outside of the facepiece. Ensure they clean it well by providing them with clear instructions and supervising them.
Filters	When wearing RPE, the wearer's exhaled breath does not pass through the filters. The filters will be handled during the test and therefore use a suitable surface cleaning disinfectant wipe on the surfaces of the plastic casing after each use.

MANAGING RISKS AND RISK ASSESSMENTS

Overview

As an employer, you're required by law to protect your employees, and others, from harm.

Under the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, the minimum you must do is:

- Identify What Could Cause Injury Or Illness In Your Business (Hazards)
- Decide How Likely It Is That Someone Could Be Harmed And How Seriously (The Risk)
- Take Action To Eliminate The Hazard, Or If This Isn't Possible, Control The Risk

Assessing risk is just one part of the overall process used to control risks in your workplace.



Steps Needed To Manage Risk

Risk management is a step-by-step process for controlling health and safety risks caused by hazards in the workplace.

You can do it yourself or appoint a competent person to help you.

1. Identify hazards
2. Assess the risks
3. Control the risks
4. Record your findings
5. Review the controls

1. Identify hazards

Look around your workplace and think about what may cause harm (these are called hazards). Think about:

- How people work and how plant and equipment are used
- What chemicals and substances are used
- What safe or unsafe work practices exist
- The general state of your premises

Look back at your accident and ill health records as these can help you identify less obvious hazards. Take account of non-routine operations, such as maintenance, cleaning or changes in production cycles.

Think about hazards to health, such as manual handling, use of chemicals and causes of work-related stress.

For each hazard, think about how employees, contractors, visitors or members of the public might be harmed.

Vulnerable Workers

Some workers have particular requirements, for example young workers, migrant workers, new or expectant mothers and people with disabilities.

Talk to workers

Involve your employees as they will usually have good ideas.



2. Assess The Risks

Once you have identified the hazards, decide how likely it is that someone could be harmed and how serious it could be. This is assessing the level of risk.

Decide:

- Who might be harmed and how
- What you are already doing to control the risks
- What further action you need to take to control the risks
- Who needs to carry out the action
- When the action is needed by

3. Control the risks

Look at what you're already doing, and the controls you already have in place. Ask yourself:

- Can I get rid of the hazard altogether?
- If not, how can I control the risks so that harm is unlikely?

If you need further controls, consider:

- Redesigning the job
- Replacing the materials, machinery or process
- Organising your work to reduce exposure to the materials, machinery or process
- Identifying and implementing practical measures needed to work safely
- Providing personal protective equipment and making sure workers wear it

Put the controls you have identified in place. You're not expected to eliminate all risks but you need to do everything 'reasonably practicable' to protect people from harm. This means balancing the level of risk against the measures needed to control the real risk in terms of money, time or trouble.

4. Record your findings

If you employ 5 or more people, you must record your significant findings, including.

- The hazards (things that may cause harm)
- Who might be harmed and how
- What you are doing to control the risks

5. Review the controls

You must review the controls you have put in place to make sure they are working. You should also review them if:

- They may no longer be effective
- There are changes in the workplace that could lead to new risks such as changes to:
 - Staff
 - A process
 - The substances or equipment used

Also consider a review if your workers have spotted any problems or there have been any accidents or near misses.

Update your risk assessment record with any changes you make.



RECENT HSE PRESS RELEASES

Case 1

Calachem Limited, a chemical manufacturing company, has been fined after an employee was scalded with boiling water during a cleaning operation.

Falkirk Sheriff Court heard that on 4 March 2016, work was undertaken to clean down part of a production plant in Grangemouth, Scotland. The cleaning process involved filling a chemical powder charging chute leading down to a reaction vessel with water that was brought to the boil by immersing a steam hose in it.

The water in the chute was boiled overnight and the following day the employee continued with the clean down process. When he tried to empty the boiling water from the charge chute, he opened a valve expecting the water to drain down into the vessel below. However, the vessel below the chute had been pressurised with nitrogen gas and when the valve was opened the pressure in the vessel was released, the scalding water erupted back up and out of the chute severely scalding the employee.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that a relatively safe cleaning process of washing down the charge chute with cold water into the vessel below had evolved and changed over time. The process had developed into the practice of overnight boiling of water in the charge chute, while simultaneously pressurising the reaction vessel below as part of a recirculating cleaning cycle. The incremental changes to the cleaning process were not subject to a review of the company's risk assessment and the danger of pressurising a vessel below a chute of boiling water was not recognised, consequently no control measures were put in place to remove this danger.

The practice of filling the powder charge chute with boiling water has ceased since the incident. The processes to clean down the plant have been risk assessed to introduce new safer worker procedures.

Calachem Limited of Peters Square, Manchester pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2 of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974. They were fined £560,000.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Gerard McCulloch said: “Those in control of working processes have a responsibility to assess the associated risks. If changes are made, which increase the level of risk, those in control of the workplace have a duty to reduce the risk back down to as low a level as reasonably practicable.

“If the decision to boil water in the chute instead of hosing it down with a cold water had been the subject of a risk assessment, the danger from the pressurised vessel below would have been identified prior to the incident. This would have prevented the employee severe injury and permanent disfigurement.”

Case 2

A north west contractor has been sentenced after disturbing asbestos during demolition works and damaging underground cables that resulted in severe disruption to services.

Blackpool Magistrates' Court heard how Peter Walling's company had been contracted to demolish a former medical centre in Blackburn and clear the land ready for development. Between 15 November and 6 December 2018, four separate incidents occurred on site when an excavator operated by Mr Walling, caused damage to underground cables and a sub-station which caused loss of electricity supplies to the local area and repair costs to the electricity supplier of £49,000. In addition to this, Mr Walling removed asbestos containing materials prior to an asbestos survey taking place, potentially exposing workers to asbestos.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that Mr Walling did not ensure all services had been disconnected prior to starting work. He had ignored warnings from Electricity North West to stop work when low voltage cables were first dug up by the excavator, causing damage to the live substation, and only stopped working in a dangerous area when the police attended the scene. Mr Walling did not implement a safe system of work when operating near to underground cables and failed to ensure that workers on site were not exposed to asbestos.

Peter Andrew Walling of Arley Rise, Mellor, Blackburn pleaded guilty to breaching Section 37(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. He was sentenced to 200 hours unpaid work and received a ten-month prison sentence suspended for 18 months and was ordered to pay costs of £7,000.

HSE inspector Christine McGlynn said after the hearing: “These incidents could so easily have been avoided by simply carrying out correct control measures and safe working practices. Mr Walling recklessly failed to heed warnings and advice and put not only himself but also others on site at risk of electrocution and risk of exposure to asbestos containing materials.

“Contractors should be aware that HSE will not hesitate to take appropriate enforcement action against those that fall below the required standards.”



NEWS



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**If you have any questions or queries, please contact us
using the following;**

0141 563 0330

Or

David@WilsonAdrainSafety.co.uk /

John@WilsonAdrainSafety.co.uk