

Returning to Work - is it safe for me to return to work?

We understand that these are difficult times, but ask that you understand that we cannot comment on every individual occupational scenario and that this is a changing and developing situation.

If you have received a shielding letter from the NHS advising that you are in the 'extremely vulnerable' group, then you should isolate for at least 12 weeks and speak to your employer as soon as possible.

It is difficult to comment broadly about return to work as the lifting of restrictions will occur in a staged approach and the type of arrangements you will need to consider will be dependent on your occupation, working environment and current operating arrangements.

The three most prevalent types are

1. Business not trading at all (all staff furloughed)
2. Business trading on a limited basis (some staff furloughed, some working from home or in company premises) or where only 'essential' workers are currently in work
3. Business trading fully but all staff working from home.

Given that the priority for every business should be managing a safe return to the workplace for staff, it's crucial that you work in close collaboration with your employer and their health and safety and occupational health teams wherever possible.

We would advise communicating with your employer about your personal circumstances, forming a shared management plan which takes into account any concerns you may have.

If you or your employer have any doubts about your safety to return to work your employer should refer you to their own occupational health department in the first instance.

Please continue to prioritise your well-being. If you have concerns about your physical or mental well-being please contact the surgery.

For further information please visit

www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19
www.acas.org.uk/coronavirus